

Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

How optimistic are you that 2012 will be better for the CNMI economy than 2011?

Very optimistic 24

Moderately optimistic 35

Not optimistic at all 118

Monday, December 26, 2011

INSIDE



Christmas in Hawaii

President Barack Obama blended his roles as a father and commander-in-chief this Christmas.

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Deadly Holiday

Terror attacks across Nigeria by a radical Muslim sect killed at least 39 people.

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'Bullying in schools getting out of hand.' PAGE 2
Bill gives up to \$10M line of credit to Healthcare Corp. PAGE 5

Abramoff: Enemy had won on federal takeover of CNMI

» Froilan: If I were still governor, I'd rather have a lobbyist than delegate

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Convicted felon and former CNMI lobbyist in Washington, D.C. Jack Abramoff said he and his lobby firms stood between the CNMI people and "the hostile bureaucrats and congressmen bent on their destruction" but conceded that "the enemy had won" when the federal government took over CNMI immigration and minimum wage starting in 2007.

See ABRAMOFF on Page 4



Abramoff



'I NINO JESUS'

Fr. Rey Rosal, pastor of San Vicente Church, prays before the Image of the Christ Child, also known as "I Nino Jesus," during Christmas Eve services at the church on Christmas Eve last Dec. 24.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Bullying in schools getting out of hand'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Board of Education student representative Mary Hocog said that despite the Public School System's tight anti-bullying policy, incidents of bullying are still rampant in school campuses.

"At bigger schools, bullying is getting out of hand and some students are afraid to go to schools," said Hocog during Thursday's board meeting where she told fellow board members the many concerns raised by both students and parents in public schools.

Hocog, who spoke in numerous events See BULLYING on Page 4



Ada

CNMI braces for impact of visa waiver for Russians visiting Guam

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI is bracing for the impact of the U.S. visa waiver for Russian tourists

visiting Guam for up to 45 days starting on Jan. 15, 2012, either by promoting both territories as "One Marianas" and/or work even harder to compete with Guam.

Since 2009, the CNMI has enjoyed a visa waiver for both Russian and Chinese tourists visiting the Commonwealth. In November this year, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security also granted

Guam parole authority for Russia.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said the CNMI may have an early start with tourists from Russia "and we

See CNMI on Page 4

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Local

2 riding on scooter arrested for ‘ice’ possession

» **At sobriety checkpoint, female hides “ice” in breast area**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two persons riding in tandem on a scooter were arrested after

police found methamphetamine or “ice” from one of them during a sobriety checkpoint along Beach Road, Chalan Piao, on Saturday night.

Fu Zhu Lin, 40, and his girlfriend, Mei Ying Qi, 45, were apprehended for possession of controlled substance.

Qi was released from jail

after posting \$5,000 cash on Sunday. Lin, jobless, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing.

Associate judge Joseph James N. Camacho imposed a \$5,000 cash bail for Lin’s temporary

release and set the preliminary hearing to Jan. 5, 2012 at 9am.

Chief Public Defender Adam Hardwicke was appointed as counsel for Lin. Acting chief prosecutor Peter Prestley appeared for the government at the hearing.

Prestley informed the court that the Office of the Attorney

General previously charged Lin with trafficking “ice” but the case was dismissed without prejudice, meaning it can be reopened in the future.

Detective Raymond B. Borja stated in his report that on Saturday between 6pm to 7:15pm, the Department of Public

See SCOOTER on Next Page

Rotary Club holds Christmas party

The Rotary Club of Saipan ended an eventful 2011 with a Christmas party that aimed to foster camaraderie and friendship among its members.

Some 50 Rotarians and guests took part in their holiday celebration held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan pool side on Dec. 20.

Tuesday’s event saw members of the service club, known primarily for its “Service Above Self” motto, enjoying various activities that were lined up to cultivate the rapport among members even beyond their humanitarian service to the CNMI.

The Rotarians were all laid back as they participated in exciting games, listened to live entertainment, moved to the beat, won exciting prizes in the raffle draw, and shared a delectable buffet.

“All year long, the Rotarians have been working very, very hard for the community. One of the rarest times we take our hats off and be ourselves and have a great time is our annual Christ-

mas party. Through this, we all enjoy ourselves for the camaraderie. When we get back together again, we can all be full of energy again to continue our projects for the community,” Rotary president Pete Igitol told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

Igitol hopes that with the coming of a new year, the Rotary will be able to get more members “so that our help to the community will be exemplified.”

Asked for his wish for the Rotarians, Igitol replied, “Keep your hearts open. Go out and embrace the humanity.”

During the event, Rotary officers also presented to the Salvation Army some 50 toys that the club collected through their toy drive. (*Clarissa V. David*)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rotary Club of Saipan members pose during the group’s Christmas party held last Dec. 20 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan pool side.



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IMMIGRATION LAWYER TELLS HR PRACTITIONERS: 'CNMI should seek 5-year extension of transition period'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI will continue to need the services of foreign workers even after the implementation of Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law, and so it must start lobbying for an extension of the five-year duration of the transition program which ends on November 2014.

Immigration lawyer Maya B. Kara said on Thursday that it is "absolutely crucial" that the Commonwealth seek the five-year extension with "as much political pressure" and "in a timely manner" for the benefit of the island economy which has depended on labor work force for years.

"I'm looking at having a five-year extension that needs to be in place before three years runs out. We can't wait for three years to start thinking about it," Kara told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview after her presentation at the "HR: Navigating Through Change," a conference sponsored by the Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter.

According to Kara, there is "not enough bodies" that would constitute the workforce needed to sustain the local economy despite qualified U.S. workers getting hired for the jobs.

Kara noted, however, that efforts to seek for a five-year extension should begin soon, given that the Commonwealth has this "emergency mentality" wherein they prepare for a disaster or crisis only until the last minute.

"Start revving up your political machine and start talking to decision makers and make sure that that extension is applied for timely," said Kara, adding that she plans to address this concern to different groups of employers, including the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Immigration lawyer Maya B. Kara speaks during the Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter's conference last Thursday. Looking on is his husband and fellow immigration lawyer Bruce Mailman.

Although Kara said it would be "best" if the five-year extension efforts would come from the local government, she described the administration as "hostile" when it comes to the issue on foreign workers.

"I'm hoping people will start lobbying for this five-year extension because it's going to be a disaster if they don't," she added.

Besides seeking the five-year extension of the federalization transition, Kara also underscored the need for businesses to start investing on training U.S. workers.

"Sooner or later, the difficulties and the expenditure of primary resources with the hiring and retaining of foreign workers is not going to go away," said Kara. "So the more resources you put into training U.S. workers that you don't have to go through this hassle with, the better for your business."

Kara said training and hiring U.S. workers will be to the advantage of local businesses since adjudicators of Commonwealth-only status petitions will be soon be educated about and

dress and took out a cigarette box that contained three pieces of cigarettes and four small clear Ziplocks (baggie) filled with a crystal-like substance.

The crystal-like substance was later tested positive for crystal methamphetamine or "ice." Police did not indicate the quantity of the seized "ice."

On Oct. 29, 2010, members of the Drug Enforcement Task Force and other members of the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau conducted a buy-bust operation against Lin in San Jose, Tinian.

Police said Lin was distributing "ice" out of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, where he was then employed.

In July 2011, the OAG moved to dismiss against Lin since the detective handling the case has left the island for a new job and there is difficulty in obtaining his file or report of the case.

Qi placed the pack of cigarettes that Lin handed to her into her breast area and refused to give it to Hermosilla despite being advised repeatedly to do so.

Police Officer Therese Kin-toku placed her hand in to Qi's

get used to CNMI conditions that the system will "get tighter" as things improve.

"I think the system will improve overtime but it's not enough. I think we're still going

to need training, increase in local participation, and continue to have foreign workers," she said.

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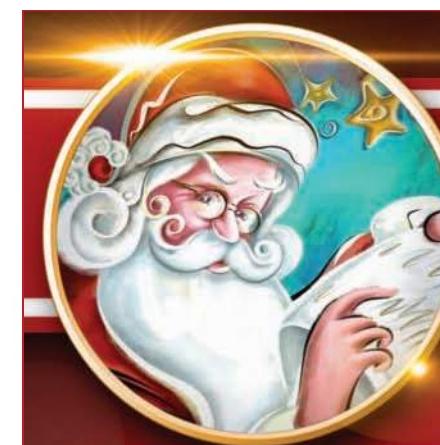
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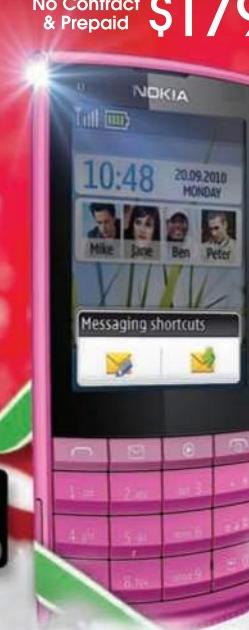
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HUD awards Guam \$879,424 in federal grants

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo last week announced that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded the Guam Housing & Urban Renewal Authority (GHURA) \$879,424 in Federal financial assistance. The funds were made available through HUD's Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance programs

CoC programs include the Supportive Housing program, Shelter Plus Care program, and the Section 8 moderate rehabilitation for Single Room Occupancy dwellings for homeless individuals. These programs provide funding and assistance to homeless persons, including transitional housing and permanent hous-

ing support services.

- \$313,363 was awarded to GHURA's Guma Hinemlo' program. This program aims to provide a safe, supportive, and nurturing living environment for residents and provides assistance in obtaining a higher level of self-sufficiency.
- \$171,852 was awarded to GHURA's Aftercare Housing program, a tenant-based shelter plus care housing voucher program that aims to provide

homeless men with disabilities an avenue to promote self-sufficiency.

- \$161,448 was awarded to GHURA's Housing First Rental Assistance program.
- \$125,415 was awarded to GHURA's Oasis Empowerment Center, which addresses the critical need of homeless women with substance abuse and/or dependency.
- \$79,082 was awarded to GHURA's Homeless Management Infor-

mation System (HMIS) program. This digital database builds a system of care to address homelessness on Guam.

- \$28,224 was awarded to GHURA's CARIDAD Supportive Services program, which provides case management, information and referral services, counseling, and life skill training for adults with disabilities who have difficulties obtaining permanent housing and financial stability. (PR)

CNMI

From Page 1

now need to continue to work even harder to compete with Guam. We can no longer take Russian tourists for granted."

"Or, even better, since tourist from Russia tend to stay here longer, we should work together to promote both

the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam as mutual destinations for tourists from Russia. A tourist could come visit both the Northern Mariana Islands and then head on to Guam for a visit before returning to Russia," he said.

Sablan said the "ultimate goal is to include Russia and China in the final rule list of countries whose citizens could travel to the Northern Mariana Islands visa-free."

told them, encouraging them to listen to the concerns raised by students' representative on the issue of bullying.

Studies show that bullying has great impact on both the students who bully and the students who are bullied. Some of the impacts are depression, low self-esteem, health problems, poor grades, and suicidal thoughts.

Early this year, the board tightened its policy on bullying and adopted formal regulation establishing expulsion and dismissal as among the serious consequences if bullying acts against students and employees of PSS are proven.

Under the policy, the board encourages any student who believes that he or she is a victim of bullying to report the matter immediately to their principal.

Press secretary Angel Demapan separately said while the Fitial administration has considered the potential effects of this, "we also view it as an opportunity to increase visitor arrivals from Russia."

"Thus, MVA [Marianas Visitors Authority] has been asked to work closely with GVB [Guam Visitors Bureau] in an effort to push a 'One Marianas' tourism package for Russian tourists," he said.

Sablan also said they learned of this

pals, teachers and counselors.

The board also wants school administrators to regularly conduct follow-ups with the complaining students to ensure that the bullying has stopped and that no retaliation has occurred.

Any student who engages in bullying while on school property or while participating in school activities will be subject to disciplinary action, including expulsion from school while for employee who permits or engages in the bullying of students, they will be subjected to disciplinary actions including dismissal from service.

Dress code, overcrowding in classes

Besides the issue of bullying on cam-

DHS decision for Guam a few weeks back "and I know that Congresswoman [Madeleine] Bordallo, Guam businesses and officials worked hard to get to where they are."

Under the DHS program, parole authority allows eligible Russian tourists, on a case-by-case basis, to visit Guam for up to 45 days without needing a U.S. visa.

The same parole authority has been

pus, Hocog also reported that many students are also concerned on the usually high number of students in classes as a result of higher students-to-teacher ratio this school year.

"Students said that school infrastructure affects the way they learn and when one class is overcrowded, it distracts them. They said that they can work better if they can interact with their teachers," reported Hocog.

From numerous presentations and activities, Hocog also bared that students are also concerned about some "incompetent teachers."

"Some are saying about their teachers being incompetent and they're wondering if they are really highly qualified or not. They also feel that

paying us."

Then main garment producer Willie Tan "stepped in and organized the private sector to pay our fees, or at least a portion of them," said Abramoff.

Abramoff also said Fitial later on told them about his plan to return to politics, run for the legislature, and reclaim the speakership of the House."

"We did all we could to support him, and in 1999, Ben won his seat in the legislative elections. But the Republicans decided to give the speakership to Heinz Hofschneider, a local politician more like Teno and Babauta than Ben or Froilan. Ben responded by bolting the party and forming a new one, the Covenant Party," he said.

Abramoff said in January 2000, Fitial was just a few votes short of winning the election for speaker.

"In Washington, we had done all we could do to promote him, including raising money and getting members of Congress cut taped messages in support of his candidacy. But that wasn't enough," he said. The efforts also included having the representatives from Rota and Tinian vote for Fitial.

When Fitial announced his gubernatorial candidacy, he was defeated by Babauta whose term began in January of 2002, when Abramoff said their representation ended.

"I had to watch what followed from the sidelines. Initially the Republicans still ran the Congress, and we had enough allies in the Administration to prevent a return to the wars of the Clinton years. The CNMI would survive Babauta's ineffectual term and live to see Ben Fitial elected as governor in 2005," Abramoff said.

Fitial, in an interview on Dec. 16, said he has not read Abramoff's new book but reiterated that Abramoff is

"my friend."

When asked whether he would invite Abramoff to come to the CNMI again, Fitial said, "Mr. Abramoff can come here anytime if he wants to. If he comes here, I will entertain him as my brother."

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked yesterday, said he's sure the governor "would like to read it."

"Mr. Abramoff was very instrumental in aiding the CNMI to stave off previous attempts at federalization. Ironically, the very economic effects Mr. Abramoff warned leaders about federalization is now taking shape at the moment," Demapan said.

Florida-based human rights activist and former CNMI teacher Wendy Doromal, in her blog, said Abramoff's book "contains such a distorted portrait of the CNMI that it is insulting to anyone with even a minimal knowledge of the history of the Mariana Islands over the last 30 years."

"Abramoff's arguments in defense of keeping the corrupt CNMI labor and immigration system show ignorance of the reality of the true situation. Or is it denial because he realizes that his actions helped to perpetuate a system where tens of thousands of foreign workers became victims of illegal recruitment, scams, human trafficking, forced prostitution, and a host of labor abuses, unpaid wages, illegal deductions, contact violations and more? At any rate, it is an inaccurate and offensive view," Doromal said.

After serving his prison term for a corruption scandal, Abramoff was released from prison and recently released his book which intended to "show the dirty underbelly of America's government and what steps must be taken to reform it."

ABRAMOFF

From Page 1

Abramoff devoted several pages and passages in his new book, "Capitol Punishment: The Hard Truth about Washington Corruption from America's Most Notorious Lobbyist," about his and his firms' lobbying on behalf of the CNMI.

"By 2006, the Democrats had taken control of Congress, and the CNMI's days were numbered. The Democrats passed their long-desired takeover legislation as part of a federal minimum wage increase in 2007... Now the enemy had won. The garment industry folded quickly, and the CNMI economy tanked," he said in concluding Chapter 8, "Political Golf," of his 303-page book.

From 1995 to 2001, Abramoff was instrumental in blocking the passage of legislation establishing federal authority over the CNMI's immigration system and raising the local minimum wage.

The lobby firms he represented billed the CNMI \$11 million during those years.

But none of those CNMI government officials he wrote about in his book browsed or read "Capitol Punishment" from cover to cover. At best, they only read or heard about certain passages referring to them, as of yesterday.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), whom Abramoff described as a "tireless public servant in the Marianas," said yesterday that Abramoff successfully blocked legislation for years that would have taken away CNMI control over its immigration and would have led to economic turmoil at the time.

"It was during my term that the CNMI collected the most revenue from 1994 to 1998," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*. "After that, the economy kept coming down. Mr. Abramoff's work was worth the money. If he had asked for more money and if we had that money, I could have given him more. He was effective, successful in what he was hired to do, to prevent damage to the CNMI. We were helpless out here."

Tenorio, also a former speaker, said if he were still governor today, he would retain lobbyists in Washington, D.C.

"For me, I'd rather have a lobbyist in Washington, D.C. than a [nonvoting] delegate. You can't compare the job of a lobbyist to that of a delegate," he said.

Tenorio said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is now just waiting for the next election when Congress could be controlled again by Republicans.

"I hope it will be a Republican Congress again so we can ask them to give us back control of our immigration," Tenorio said.

It was Tenorio's chief of staff and cousin, Brenda Tenorio, and a few of her employees who actually met with Abramoff in mid-May 1995 when a team from the CNMI went to Washington, D.C. looking for a lobbyist, Abramoff said.

"But as much as his friends loved him (Froilan), they were also constantly caught off guard by his idiosyncratic behavior. His public pronouncements were blunt and, sometimes, very odd. One day he would advise the young ladies of Saipan to marry only rich guys. Another day he would proclaim it ethical for a sitting governor to take loans from a felon. Froilan was a source of unending wonder to us, but on matters of principle and personal clashes, he

was unbending," Abramoff said.

Abramoff said Juan N. Babauta, then the CNMI resident representative in Washington, D.C., "focused almost entirely on getting the Congress to approve upgrading his position to that of delegate but with little success."

"Babauta was the archetype Pacific islander emissary to Washington, D.C. His natural shyness, coupled with his truckling and unctuous demeanor left him invisible to almost all of official Washington," Abramoff said.

Babauta, when asked for comment yesterday, said he has not read Abramoff's book and declined to comment on the former lobbyist's description of him.

In 1997, Froilan Tenorio drew a re-election challenge from his uncle, former governor Pedro P. Tenorio, fondly known as Teno.

It was during the transition from Froilan to Teno's administrations in December 1997 that Abramoff planned a trip to the CNMI for then House Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

Abramoff wrote about golfing with then Tan Holdings executive and future governor Benigno R. Fitial, Teno, and DeLay.

Besides describing Fitial as "one of the leaders who helped shape the covenant that we fought so vigorously to defend" and "one of the most affable and knowledgeable representatives the CNMI had," he also said Fitial was a "great golfer."

Abramoff said the CNMI had real financial problems that the Teno administration did not engage their lobbying services. He said they spent over half a million dollars in billable time keeping the CNMI free from the new assaults by Interior's Allen Stayman and Rep. George Miller "but there was no one

Bill gives up to \$10M line of credit to Healthcare Corp.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) pre-filed on Friday a bill that essentially provides an up to \$10 million line of credit to the Commonwealth Health Corp., a measure that CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta said yesterday will "tremendously help the corporation" which used to have nearly \$25 million in general fund appropriation to only \$5 million in fiscal year 2012.

House Bill 17-258, which Basa co-authored with Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), authorizes the Marianas Public Land Trust to retain net annual distributable interest income for fiscal years 2014 to 2020 to offset a \$10 million advance to the general fund, and that amount will be made available to CHC.

Babauta said this "line of credit will get us hopefully over the bump in terms of paying vendors and provide for services."

"This is a revolving credit line. It's a loan but it's not an entire loan upfront. We would

draw down whatever amount we need, and pay the interest on that amount we drew down so we don't have to pay the interest on the entire \$10 million," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

Basa, in a separate interview, said his bill aims to infuse badly needed capital into CHC so that the corporation can better serve patients.

In an interview on Capital Hill, Basa said the bill was worked on for about a week after a meeting between him, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Babauta.

He said he hopes that the bill will pass the House and Senate.

"It's a very urgent bill... This is not a grant or a charity. It's like a line of credit," Basa said.

Money from this line of credit will be used by the hospital only for capital improvements such as purchase of hospital equipment and repairs.

Since the Department of Public Health became a corporation in October 2011, it has achieved significant strides, said Basa in his bill.

For example, collections that reached nearly \$1 million in November represent nearly

double the amount the hospital usually collects every month.

Improvements in the areas of coding, billing, and collection are also underway.

But while the corporation has made drastic improvements in terms of financial stability in a short time, there is still plenty of room for further improvement.

The bill says initial assessment shows that the hospital's uncollected bills amount to some \$52 million, of which only over \$20 million can be potentially collected because the statute of limitations has al-

ready run out.

The \$1 million collected in November 2011 was used primarily for personnel costs associated with CHC's more than 600 employees.

Basa's bill says CHC still owes its vendors more than \$1 million in unpaid obligations. It also says despite the creation of the corporation as an independent agency, CHC still functions as a semi-government entity because it still heavily relies on the general fund for operations.

"Because of this, the instant legislation is of critical impor-

tance to the future sustainability of CHC," the bill says.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), one of the supporters of the bill, said it's possible that the bill will get enough votes to pass the House.

But Tenorio said before he votes on the bill, he would want to call on CHC's Babauta, along with Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson and management and budget director Vicky Villagomez, to update the House about the government's revenue collections.

He also said he wants to ensure that MPLT will be repaid.

Under HB 17-258, MPLT funds will be deposited into the general fund in full compli-

ance with the CNMI Constitution and Article XI section 6

except that rather than making this mandated distribution on an annual basis spread out over several years, this distribution will be made all at once, as an advance of projected revenues for FYs 2014 through 2020 or as needed.

This was similarly done when PL 16-7 made \$3.4 million available to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. from MPLT through an advance of future interest income distributions.

Babauta, meanwhile, thanked Basa, Iguel, Speaker Eli Cabrera, and MPLT chair Alvaro Santos for coming up with the bill.



Basa

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Life in Motion

CUC: Four areas on Saipan face water outage

» Funding for water, wastewater to increase

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday that residents of Dandan, Airport Road, Fina Sisu, and As Lito, while residents of Upper Dandan will be experiencing low water pressure.

Due to the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that travelers take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. The utilities corporation apologizes for any inconvenience resulting from these projects and the water service interruption.

Meantime, funding for CNMI water and sewer projects are expected to increase as a result of the efforts of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

In his newsletter last week, Sablan announced that he asked that 1.5 percent of the Clean

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
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Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,	Civil Action No. 06-0590-CV
Plaintiff,	
vs.	
WILLIAM DLG. ANGUL and JESSIE A. ANGUL,	
Defendants.	

THIRD NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 23rd day of August, 2007, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 13th day of January, 2012 at 10 a.m., at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 011 G 1067, located in Kagman III, Saipan, containing an area of 841 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey's Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 10 dated December 1, 1993 and recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 93-4178 on December 3, 1993.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

- Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kuya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rtlaw@pticom.com.
- Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to MPLT.
- Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and MPLT reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 29th day of November, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

dents living on Lower Dandan, Airport Road, Fina Sisu, and As Lito, while residents of Upper Dandan will be experiencing low water pressure.

Water Fund be set aside for water and sewer funds for the CNMI and other insular areas to the House of Appropriations Subcommittee, which is responsible for Environmental Protection Agency funding.

Sablan said that the House and Senate appropriators included this request in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY 2012. According to Sablan,

the current law sets aside just .25 percent of the Clean Water Fund for the islands and .33 percent of the Safe Drinking Water Fund. With the new request, insular areas will see a 1.5 percent set aside for each Fund.

"For fiscal years 2010 and 2011, I was also successful in increasing the percentage set aside of 1.24 percent for the Clean Water Fund and 1.5

percent for the Safe Drinking Water Fund which resulted in nearly five times more funding for each program. In the final package, Congress appropriated \$1.47 billion for the Clean Water Fund and \$919 million for the Safe Drinking Water Fund, a decrease from the fiscal 2011 enacted amounts of \$1.52 billion and \$963 million respectively," said Sablan,

adding that while there is a decrease in the Clean Water Fund, the 1.5 percent set aside ensures that the NMI is not harmed by the cuts.

"Even with the reduction in appropriations, the formula change softens the impact of the cuts and allows the CNMI government to meet our community's infrastructure needs," added Sablan.

Defendant in 'ice' case ordered brought to CHC for wrist injuries

» Defendant could not move left wrist, unable to sleep, eat in jail due to severe pain

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of two suspected suppliers of methamphetamine or "ice" could not able to move his left wrist as a result of the injuries he suffered when detectives arrested him last Dec. 5.

This prompted chief public defender Adam Hardwicke to raise to the Superior Court last week the urgent need for defendant Yu Hua Wang to be given medical attention.

Acting chief prosecutor Peter Prestley did not object.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja granted the request

and ordered the Department of Corrections to immediately transport the 36-year-old Wang to the Commonwealth Health Center for medical attention.

At the hearing, Naraja asked Wang, through an interpreter, to move his left wrist, and observed that he was unable to do so.

When Naraja asked if he had received any medical attention from DOC, the defendant indicated that a nurse did not examine his hand/wrist and that he was only given pain medication.

Wang stated that he is unable

to sleep and eat due to the severe pain in his injured wrist.

The Office of the Attorney General has charged Wang and Jin Qing Chen each with two counts of trafficking of controlled substance, illegal possession of controlled substance, and resisting arrest.

The defendants pleaded not guilty.

When the defendants were first taken to the court last Dec. 6, Judge Joseph James N. Camacho noted that Wang's co-defendant, Chen, had a bandage on the right side of face.

A detective said Chen was tackled to the ground for resisting arrest.

Chen, through an interpreter, told Judge Camacho that he would sue for police brutality.

Camacho told Cheng he has a right to sue, but that he needs to hire a lawyer to do so as it would be a civil matter.

Detective Dennis Reyes testified in that hearing how they were able to buy \$200 and \$400 worth of "ice" from Chen and Wang using a confidential source in two operations.

Reyes said that 4.45 gross grams of "ice" worth \$7,000

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ITB11-DPS/RBS-018 (A)(B)**

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THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, **LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE** BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS
COMMISSIONER, DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
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P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,	Civil Action No. 11-0129-CV
Plaintiff,	
vs.	
INAS JOHN M. HOCOG, LAWRENCE M. HOCOG and LORETO B. HOCOG aka. LARRY B. HOCOG,	AMENDED SUMMONS
Defendants.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT
INAS JOHN M. HOCOG and LAWRENCE M. HOCOG:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED TO FILE ANY ANSWER YOU WISH TO MAKE TO THE COMPLAINT WITHIN TWENTY (20) DAYS AFTER SERVICE OF THIS AMENDED SUMMONS UPON YOU, AND TO DELIVER OR MAIL A COPY OF YOUR ANSWER TO ROBERT TENORIO TORRES, ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.O. BOX 503758, SAIPAN, MP 96950, OR AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER FILING YOUR ANSWER OR SENDING IT TO THE CLERK OF COURT OF THE ABOVE-ENTITLED COURT FOR FILING.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING AND FILED WITH THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1ST FLOOR, GUMA' HUSTISA, ILIWAL AWEWE, HOUSE OF JUSTICE, P.O. BOX 500307, SAIPAN, MP 96950-0307. IT MAY BE PREPARED AND SIGNED FOR YOU BY YOUR ATTORNEY AND SENT TO THE CLERK OF COURT BY MESSENGER OR BY MAIL. IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR YOU TO APPEAR PERSONALLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

IF YOU FAIL TO FILE AN ANSWER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS AMENDED SUMMONS, JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT PURSUANT TO THE COURT RULES OF THE ABOVE-ENTITLED COURT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT.

SO ORDERED ON THIS 28TH DAY OF JULY, 2011.

/S/ CLERK OF COURT

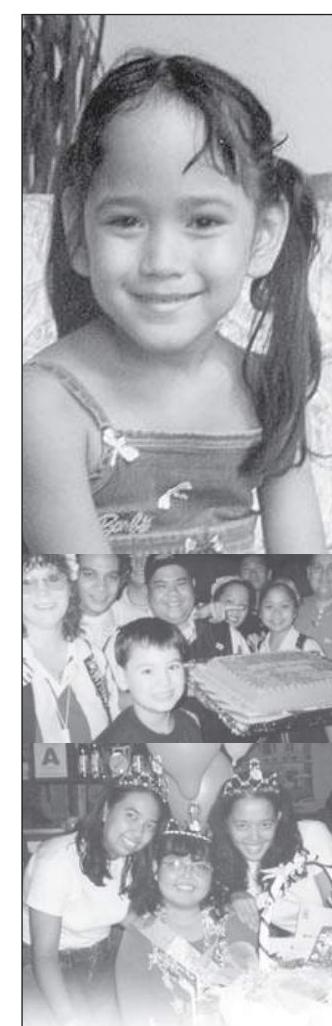
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road, Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

ANNOUNCEMENT

Pursuant I CMC 9911, a notice of twenty-four (24) hours or greater is hereby given to the public that the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Board of Advisors will hold a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, December 28, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the Administration Building of the Commonwealth Health Center, Conference Room #2, located at I Lower Navy Hill Road, Navy Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

AGENDA

- Adoption of Corporate By-Laws
- Creation of Special Ethics/ Disciplinary Committee
- Approval of Healthcare Corporation Budget for submission to the Legislature.
- Adjournment



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Saipan Tribune

CUC joins CPA request to participate in Fund lawsuit proceedings

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has joined the Commonwealth Ports Authority's motion to participate as intervenor in the proceedings on the lawsuit filed by the NMI Retirement Fund against the CNMI government.

CUC, through its counsel, S. Joshua Berger, joined CPA in its request to the Superior Court to permit the agency to assist with the resolution of the Fund's lawsuit.

Berger said CUC wants a similar court's order that CPA requested, so as to aid in the resolution of the matter, as well as to protect CUC's interests.

Berger said initially, under the tutelage of Antonio S. Muna, then-CUC executive director, CUC has been closely watching this case and has been paying the exact percentages ordered by the court for the central government and some of the additional agencies such as the Public School System and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"CUC simply wants to be treated the same as the central government and other agencies within this lawsuit," Berger said.

The lawyer pointed out that since the court issued its order after the June 29, 2011 review hearing, which appears to have been issued Aug. 22, 2011, CUC has been contributing its employers contributions in the amount of 30 percent, as mandated by the court.

"From this point forward, therefore, and in light of the (Fund's) huge increase which seems only to be directed towards agencies outside of this lawsuit, CUC requests that it be part of this lawsuit and thereafter be part of future orders," Berger said.

CPA counsel Robert T. Tor-

res in the motion to intervene said their interests are not and cannot be adequately represented by existing parties to the controversy.

"The government is attempting to figure out what it can do to stave off execution of its assets and how to continue to make its contributions," Torres said.

The lawyer pointed out that none of the parties in this lawsuit, appear concerned with representing the interests of current contributing members or with CPA's statutory duty.

"Should the parties to this action work a settlement or reach an alternative disposition that addresses only their interests, there is a real risk that CPA will be forced to bear an increasingly larger portion of employer contributions if the government continues not to pay," Torres said.

CPA comptroller Derek Sasamoto in his declaration pointed out that in a memorandum to all government agencies and instrumentalities dated June 27, 2011 from Fund's Board of Trustees, the Fund unilaterally directed all agencies to adjust their Fiscal Year 2012 budget submissions in order to provide for an increase in Fund contributions from 37.39009 percent of employee salaries to 60.8686 percent to become effective in October 2011.

"The memorandum was promulgated without notice to CPA; without the knowledge or input of CPA; without taking into account the budget, statutory mission, or obligations of CPA; and without taking into account the fact that unlike the government or the defendants who pay salaries from the general fund, CPA's payment history is current," Sasamoto said.

(Ferdie de la Torre)

Blue Water Homes expected to be completed in 2013

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the grand opening of Sandy Beach Homes over a week ago, the developer of the Blue Water Homes targets the completion of their project in 2013.

Michael S. Sablan of Blue Water Homes LLC told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview that they are estimating about a year and half of work to finish the project which is bigger than Sandy Beach Homes.

Blue Water Homes is the second affordable housing project in the CNMI to avail of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program.

The \$30-million affordable housing project, which involves the construction of 80 two-, three-, and four-bedroom units in a 98-foot building, was originally planned to be constructed at the Tamat Beach area in Cha-

lan Piao, south of Chalan Kanoa Beach Club.

But Blue Water Homes LLC member and Triple J Triple J Enterprises founder Robert "Bob" Jones officially announced at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce monthly membership meeting in October that the housing project will no longer be constructed in the area because of probate issues.

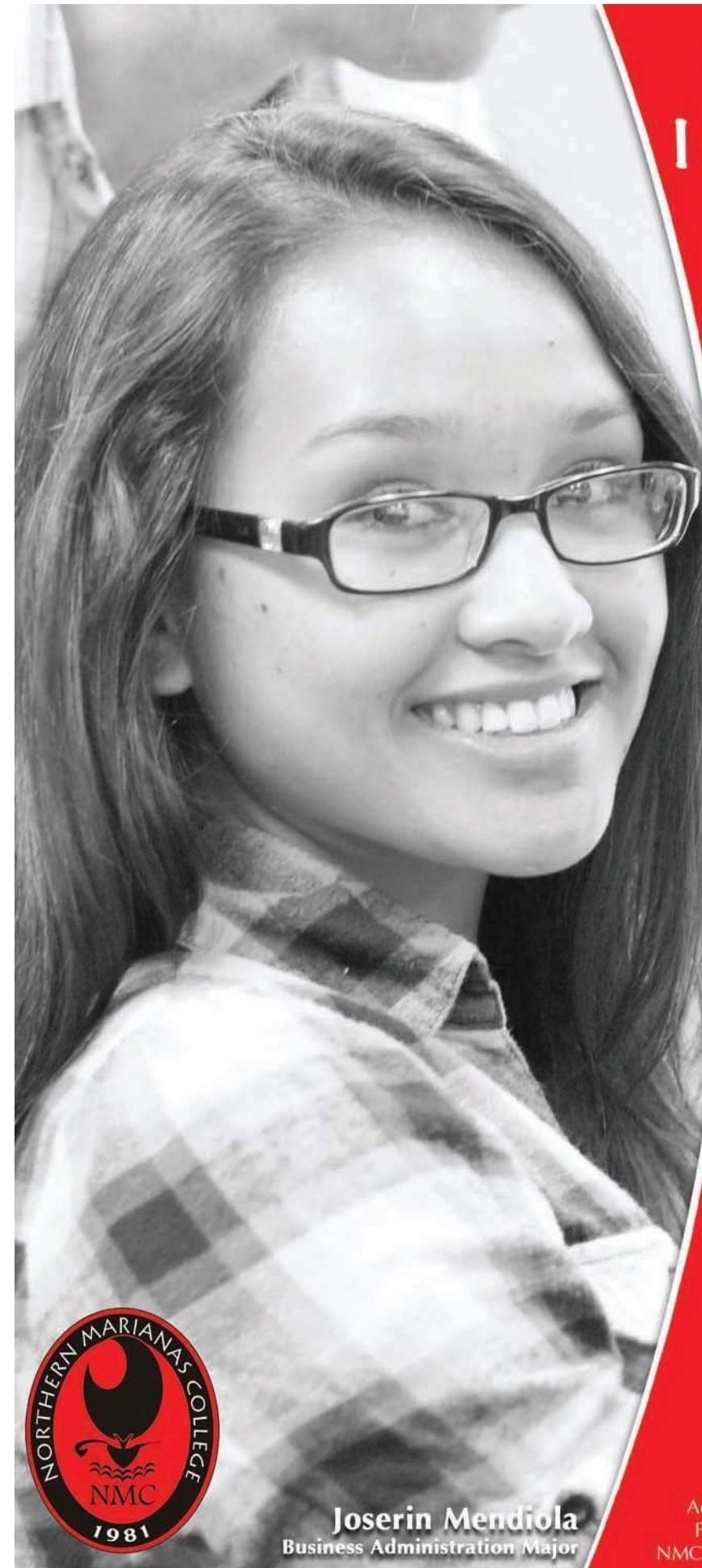
Sablan said they are eyeing three alternate sites for the housing project, which they have yet to disclose due to ongoing land issues that remain to be addressed.

"Hopefully, we get those issues resolved so we can move forward within the next few months," added Sablan.

Created through the Tax Reform of 1986 by the U.S. Congress, LIHTC is the largest and most successful housing program in the nation and is administered in the CNMI by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

TOYS FOR TOTS DONATION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) officers made their annual Toys for Tots donation to Salvation Army last Christmas Eve. Pastor Wayne Gillespie and wife Annie were on hand to receive the gifts at the Guma' Yo'ase in San Antonio. Some toys were purchased from the Koblerville Elementary PTSA and Glee Club Toy Gram fundraiser. Donations were made out of personal funds.



Joserin Mendiola
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Spring 2012 Semester Dates

Registration

January 10 to 13, 2012

Student Orientation for International Students

January 6, 2012

9:30am to 4:00pm

Student Center, Building J

Student Orientation

January 12, 2012

1st Session: 9am to 12pm

2nd Session: 4pm to 7pm

NMC Library, Building O

Late Registration

January 17 to 20, 2012

First Day for Spring Classes

January 17, 2012

English Placement Test

(Held in the English Lab, Bldg. M):

Jan 3 (Tue) 9am-4pm Jan 9 (Mon) 9am-4pm

Jan 4 (Wed) 9am-6pm Jan 10 (Tue) 9am-6pm

Jan 5 (Thu) 9am-6pm Jan 11 (Wed) 9am-6pm

Jan 6 (Fri) 9am-2pm Jan 12 (Thu) 9am-4pm

Jan 13 (Fri) 9am-2pm

(Appointments recommended, please call the Languages & Humanities Dept. at 234-5498 ext. 2017/2009)

Math Placement Tests

(Held in Bldg. A, Room 9):

Jan 3 (Tue) 10am-12pm Jan 10 (Tue) 10am-12pm

Jan 5 (Thu) 10am-12pm Jan 12 (Thu) 10am-12pm

or 5pm-7pm or 5pm-7pm

For more information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 ext. 1528. For the latest news and announcements, follow NMC on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NMC.Prao

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We Bought A Zoo


Friday	4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday thru Thursday	1:10	4:10	7:10

Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson
Comedy drama • Rated PG

Synopsis
A widower (Matt Damon) purchases a zoo in order to bring his family back together in this Twentieth Century Fox adaptation of Benjamin Mee's autobiographical memoir. Cameron Crowe (Almost Famous) writes and directs based on a script by Aline Brosh McKenna.

The Darkest Hour


Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Monday thru Thursday	1:25	4:25	7:25	

Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Director Chris Gorak (Right at Your Door) teams with producer Timur Bekmambetov for this tense apocalyptic thriller centering on the fight for survival waged by five youths who find themselves stranded in Moscow during an alien invasion. As the invisible extraterrestrials absorb all of Earth's energy and life forms, finding a means of escaping the unstoppable attackers becomes a seemingly impossible task. Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby, and Max Minghella star.

The Adventure of Tintin


Friday	4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Monday thru Thursday	1:30	4:30	7:30

Jamie Bell, Andy Serkis
Adventure • Rated PG

Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol


Friday	4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Monday thru Thursday	1:15	4:15	7:15

Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner
Spy film, Action • Rated PG 13

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo


Friday	4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Monday thru Thursday	1:00	4:00	7:00

Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara
Thriller • Rated R

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked


Friday	4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Monday thru Thursday	1:20	4:20	7:20

Jason Lee
Children's/family • Rated G

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows


Friday	4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Monday thru Thursday	1:05	4:05	7:05

Robert Downey, Jr. Jude Law
Action, Mystery • Rated PG 13

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BOE: Deal to absorb PSS' power bills still in draft form

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the Memorandum of Agreement with the central government and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is far from being finalized because everything is still in draft form.

The proposed MOA pertains to the Public School System's unpaid power bills, which is expected to be absorbed by the administration to offset the "rollover" funds incurred last fiscal year.

The issue was among the issues tackled by the board during its more than two-hour executive session held last Thursday.

Ada, after the closed-door

meeting, refused to disclose further details of the agreement pending final decision.

"It [MOA] is still being routed and ... is not finalized. Yes, the intention of MOA is to absorb the \$1.7 million that we owe CUC," she told *Saipan Tribune* after emerging from the closed-door meeting, adding that she is not at liberty to say anything on the proposal because everything is in draft stage.

Saipan Tribune learned that PSS incurred \$3 million in debt from CUC representing unpaid bills in many months. Of the figure, \$1.7 million was absorbed by the central government in acknowledging that it failed to remit the PSS budget allotments last fiscal year.

CUC officials earlier said that PSS will shoulder the \$1.3 million which is expected to be fulfilled in the next 12 months.

CUC earlier rejected the MOA proposed by PSS and the administration citing the lack of "concrete payment schedule" for the absorbed obligation.

As of Sept. 30 this year, CUC disclosed that the central government and PSS topped the list of accounts with huge unpaid obligations resulting to the agency's shortfall.

The central government has an outstanding debt of \$2.4 million, while PSS incurred \$3.6 million in unpaid obligation as of end of FY 2011. With the \$50,000 recently paid by the central government,

PSS obligation was reduced to \$3.1 million.

PSS disclosed that the central government owed the system over \$3 million which represents unpaid personnel allotments for fiscal year 2011. This is categorized as "roll-over" funds that could help PSS in its financial needs this fiscal year 2012.

In fiscal year 2011, public schools were originally appropriated \$32 million but was reduced to about \$28 million following an across-the-board budget reduction in all government agencies and departments. PSS only received about \$25 million for its personnel and operations.

Tinian girl gets 'Hello Kitty' bike

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the youngest patients at the Tinian Health Center received a surprise Christmas gift when she was presented with a brand new "Hello Kitty" pink bicycle recently.

Anabel Reyes Kiyoshi was presented by the center's staff with the charming bike in behalf of 9-month-old Kate Manglona, daughter of Atty. Janet King and Joshua Manglona of Tinian.

Anabel's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ike Kiyoshi, expressed their appreciation to the center and most especially to Kate and her parents.

"It is indeed an honor for Anabel to have received such a beautiful bicycle, very thoughtful of Kate and her parents lifting the Christmas spirit of our daughter," said Mr. Kiyoshi, a member of the Tinian Fire Department EMS.

"I think Kate will be very happy about that. It's never too

The center's staff nurse Porsha H. Palacios said that the generosity of Kate and her parents touched their hearts.

Joining Anabel and her parents during the presentation by acting resident director Freddy Hofschneider were visiting physician Dr. Patrick Thong, and staffers Juan B. Pangilinan, Arley Long, Porsha Palacios, Rodney Cabarles, Tessa Diaz, Maria Cecilia Cabarles, Hazel Lentaja, Sydney Biton, Phennie Cabarles, and Kayla Palacios.

Kate Manglona won the coveted 20-inch pink Sanrio bike during the Lollipops raffle draw on Saipan recently.

Kate's win, King said, made them feel very blessed that they decided as a family to donate the Sanrio bike to a young girl from Tinian "with a very critical medical need."

"I think Kate will be very happy about that. It's never too



Anabel Reyes Kiyoshi rides the "Hello Kitty" pink bike donated by the Manglona family.

early to teach her about being generous," King earlier told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that they will take care of the expenses to be incurred in shipping the bike to the recipient on Tinian.

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Commerce now lead agency for federal financing

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Given the financial conditions of the Commonwealth Development Authority, the Department of Commerce has now taken its place in being the lead agency to apply for the State Small Business Credit Initiative administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

SSBCI, which was created when President Barack Obama signed into law the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 on Sept. 27, 2010, is funded with \$1.5 billion to strengthen state programs that support private financing to small businesses and manufacturers.

Under the SSBCI, states, territories, and eligible municipalities are given the opportunity to build upon or create successful models for state small business programs, including capital access programs, collateral support programs, loan participation programs, loan guarantee programs, and venture capital programs.

SSBCI is expected to help spur up to \$15 billion in lending to small businesses and manufacturers that are creditworthy but are not getting the loans or investments they need to expand and create jobs by using federal funds to leverage private financing.

CDA loan manager Oscar Camacho said in an interview

that the Treasury "feels strongly" that CDA is not as firm in its financial conditions as the local government.

"CDA's financial projections indicate that we have our own shortcomings," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*. "They (Treasury) feel uncomfortable that we couldn't be in a position to continue the program."

Camacho noted, however, that the role of the Department of Commerce in the process is limited to only being the applicant for SSBCI.

"The Department of Commerce will contract with us, and CDA will do the marketing and the outreach services," he said, adding that it will be CDA which will facilitate and coordinate the program in its entirety since they are the only agency that can engage the participation of banks and other private lenders.

Executive director Manuel Sablan, for his part, disclosed that the decision to involve Commerce was actually a suggestion from the Treasury in efforts to help the Commonwealth take "full advantage" of this one-time program of limited duration.

Sablan said they are now working on the application and are in constant communication with the Treasury to work on a timeline for the application.

According to Sablan, they are looking at availing only

the collateral support and loan participation programs of SSBCI since these two are basically funded under the grant and neither the CDA nor the local government is required to disburse any money.

"There's no contingent liability. It's eliminated," added

Camacho.

Sablan said SSBCI can finance up to 50 percent of the loan of a small business owner to the bank, even allowing deferred payment of principal and interest up to 36 months with zero interest, providing the bank new cash and helping improve

the bank's cash flow.

"It's a win-win situation both for the borrower, the state, and the bank," he said.

Camacho said over \$13 million in SSBCI funds, are expected to be deployed which could also give local contractors the opportunity to com-

pete against off-island companies for infrastructure or development projects that are otherwise not afforded by the local contractors.

Should the CNMI's SSBCI application gets approved, Sablan said they intend to tap on the technical assistance that can be provided by the state of Michigan which has successfully implemented the program.

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Family	STAYWELL Aetna High Option Aetna Low Option <i>StayWell Annual savings = \$2,999 + Potential Refund of \$ 1,236</i>	\$208.00 \$322.96 \$298.78	\$265.00 No Dental Plan No Dental Plan

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High Option: Single = \$ 4,000; family = \$ 12,000
Low Option: Single = \$ 10,000; family = \$ 30,000

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The revolution betrayed

The high hopes of the Egyptian people for a peaceful transition to democracy are being thwarted by the brutal tactics of the country's military rulers, who in recent days have launched a bloody campaign of repression against protesters demanding an immediate turnover of power to an elected civilian government. The armed forces, once revered as guardians of the popular uprising that overthrew longtime dictator Hosni Mubarak in February, now appear desperate to cling to power at any cost. Some protest leaders are already calling what is happening a military coup.

Reports from the capital over the last few days have been horrific: Women stripped and dragged half naked through the streets by police in riot gear; civilians beaten, kicked and stomped by government thugs; thousands of men, women and children arrested and thrown into prison. Meanwhile, the military's top general denies his forces are playing any role in the violence and blames the unrest on foreign elements intent of destroying the state.

That's the "big lie" that is the signature art form of totalitarian despots: Tell a whopper, no matter how outrageous or absurd, then repeat it so often people simply tire of disbelieving it. Except in this case, the evidence pouring out of Egypt via the Internet and satellite TV is so overwhelming it has exposed the military's duplicity to the entire world. That the Egyptian army, even knowing that, is resorting to such tactics signals the generals have dropped any pretense of honoring their promise to cede power to the country's democratically elected representatives.

This is not what the protesters who gathered in Cairo's Tahrir square nearly a year ago bargained for. They, like millions of others across the country who supported their movement, were inspired by the example of the peaceful uprising in Tunisia that in January toppled the regime of longtime President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali. And despite some violent clashes between security forces and protesters, Egypt's demonstrators took heart from the refusal of many soldiers to obey orders to fire on the crowds. The feelings of solidarity between soldiers and the protesters in January led many Egyptians to see the army as the guarantor of their democratic revolution.

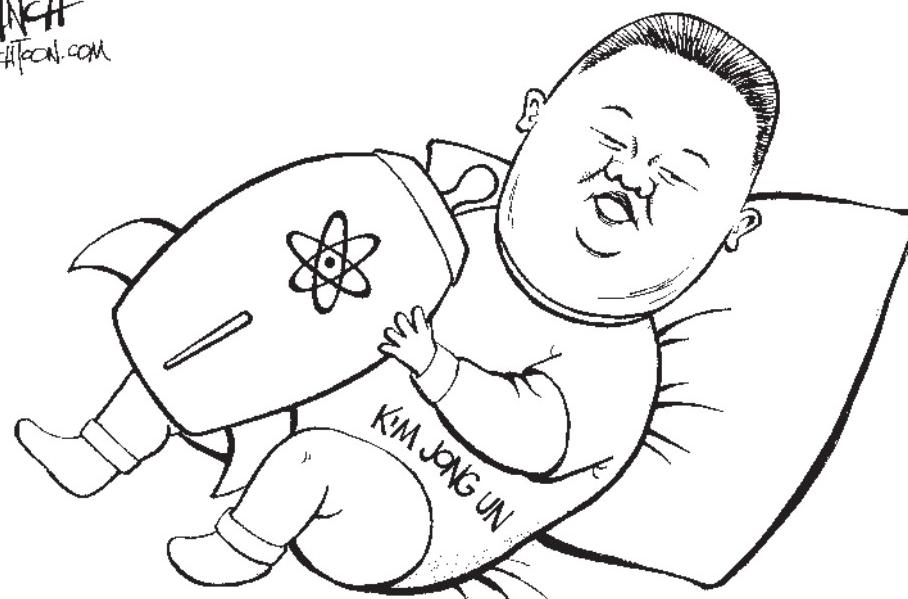
Now it appears those hopes have been betrayed. The last thing Egyptians wanted to see was the replacement of Mr. Mubarak's dictatorship by a new tyranny of the generals.

Egypt is currently in the midst of parliamentary elections that are supposed to lead to presidential elections next year and the drafting of a constitution. Yet is far from clear how much pressure the moderately Islamist Muslim Brotherhood, whose Freedom and Justice party won the largest bloc of votes in the first round of balloting, or Egypt's weak secular and liberal parties will be able to exert to push the military even to stick to its announced timetable for ceding power to civilian elected leaders, let alone to speed up the process.

On the contrary, events suggest that the military's leaders are only interested in maintaining their immunity to civilian oversight and their lucrative and unregulated business ventures, which account for a substantial proportion of Egypt's deteriorating economy. When it comes to implementing fundamental reforms, they have dragged their feet every step of the way. As a result of their unwillingness to relinquish control of the government in any meaningful form, the revolution in Egypt that started a year ago amid such high hopes for the country's democratic future is still far from over, and its result far from certain.

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The challenges awaiting us in 2012

In a few days we will be celebrating a New Year—2012 with all its hopes for a better future. We will pray that conditions will improve. But unless we plan and take decisive actions, 2012 will become a larger disaster than 2011 has been. Therefore let's pause for a few minutes and reflect on where we are. We have to understand how we got into the mess we are in. Later we will discuss where we can go if we create desire, determination and the discipline needed to achieve the goals.

The following are my personal viewpoints, good or bad, accurate or inaccurate, but they are not intended as criticism. Even if some of us don't agree with them at least they should stimulate us to examine some of our attitudes towards our problems. Only by seriously questioning our previous actions can we proceed forth with confidence and faith in the future.

Could one of the reasons behind our problems be that some indigenous citizens appear to embrace many of the tenets of the free enterprise system, but also strive to maintain a largely "controlled" or "circumscribed" relationship with the U.S. within the confining, per verbatim framework of the Covenant? Simply put, these individuals seem to profess to want to be a part of—but separate from—the United States and many of its laws. What do you think?

Another concept that we find hard to put aside is that we insist on having non-resident workers do the labor for us. We seem to be addicted to having them; yet we resent their presence and demands for wanting to enjoy a better life than where they came from.

This problem is not new. In the words of a former Saipan Chamber of Commerce President stated in 1995:

"The CNMI advantage is often framed in the context of its low and cheap labor. The lack of a highly educated and skilled workforce impacts our community when businesses can no longer find capable qualified employees and finds it necessary to look or hire elsewhere for an educated workforce."

Why haven't we improved on this situation of local workers versus nonresident workers since 1995? Isn't some of the mess and confusion we are straddled with today related to our lack of a local workforce? Why haven't we tackled this acute problem sooner?

Our nation can only become prosperous again when we local people are the main driving force in the workplace. Nothing is free in this world. Whatever we have and cherish has to be earned with our own hands.

We seem to have an almost universal belief that we are doing the investor a favor by permitting such an investment—when actually the opposite is true. Do we have a deep understanding of the need for private investors to make a profit in their capital at risk? Do we have an impression that foreign investments exploit the islands and its indigenous inhabitants? Do we understand the intense competition from other areas for investment capital? What are our true attitudes towards foreign investors?

Think of some of our investors. How well have we accepted them in our community? How well do our leaders and agencies befriend and help them? Why haven't we tried to be investors in our resources as well? Yes, I am asking us to think about all of these things so that with our answers we can make the necessary adjustments.

The other day a newcomer to Saipan lamented to me how much nepotism he saw in just a few months of living here. I nodded my head and remained silent at what he was telling me for I have experienced the same myself too often. Nepotism is defined as "favoritism (as, in an appointment to a job) based on kinship—cousin, nephew, godson, etc. How many people do we know working in the government, not because of their knowledge and ability, but be-

cause of who they know?

We fail to see understand that the acceptance and condoning of nepotism is a breeding ground for mediocrity, incompetence and waste. The Commonwealth appears not so much as a government but rather as an "extended family." While this may appear good to some of us, it certainly is not helping us solve our problems. We need experienced and dedicated people for us to move ahead.

Notice at the next election time how each candidate suddenly has four or five different family names which he never uses daily. We are reminded that he or she is a member of this or that family. The more family names thrown in the merrier. We are reminded that the candidate is a relative and should get our vote.

Nepotism, which is so prevalent, injuries by favoring families and relatives and clients, by making government institutions mere screens for those family networks to hide behind and by institutionalizing mediocrity. Nepotism destroys the promise of reward for competence, erodes the concept of democratic fairness and equality by reducing those not empowered through connections to a level of powerless, unorganized plebeians dependent upon the favors handed out by those in control of the bureaucracy. It's not what we know but who we know!

In many instances people are placed in government management positions possessing only rudimentary skills and knowledge. This educational deficiency inhibits creative thinking, the ability to make critical analysis or solve problems. Doesn't this explain some of the shallowness, lack of action, waste and incompetency, we experience daily in our government and its agencies? How much has this attitude affected our economic and social life? Shouldn't we consider minimizing nepotism for better governance?

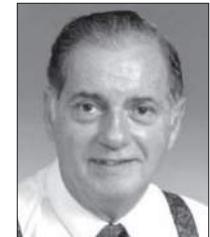
We are still wrestling with Article 12. Have we seriously considered what maintaining it is doing and will continue to do to our wealth fare? We must decide the merits and demerits of this at once. Since we are asking investors to invest in the CNMI their opinions must be solicited. Isn't Article 12 a major deterrent? Think about it.

By not being permitted to own land in fee simple, foreign investors and other non-indigenous home owners are deprived of gains resulting from appreciation in land values. In fact, the more the lease term length erodes the less residual value to the lessee. Wonder why it is so hard to get a mortgage on a house?

Prudent foreign investors must strive to make up this "shadow loss" by increased long-term net earnings and certainly by an amount sufficient to compensate for what otherwise could have been alternatively earned in an interest bearing account plus compensation for the loss in purchasing power resulting from inflation.

As a former resident of Hawaii, I experienced the appreciation of land value when it changed from leasehold to a fee simple status. I recall buying land in fee simple from the Bishop Estate for \$60,000. Today that same property and thousands of others like them have more than quadrupled. Think \$60,000, now \$250,000—same land

See CHALLENGES on Next Page



The civil twilight of immigrants

It is no accident that Xmas dramaturgy coincides with winter solstice, when the civil twilight is most pronounced and the Northern hemisphere has its longest night of the year. Transformation occurs most after the dark night of the soul!

English saw the word “immigrant” from its use in the United States. “Immigrate” was already coined by 1776 but the noun émigré who leaves his country to go to another was the word of choice. The New World introduced “immigrant”, one who journeys into uncharted territory and to an unknown future. JFK called us a Nation of Immigrants.

I am an immigrant, slight modified. I signed up with Americans and others in a global service force after the earthrise of ’68, and I have been in the glocal force ever since. Glocalis is that domain of global consciousness and local action.

Still, there is the matter of passports. As a returning student in ’70 qualified to migrate by marriage, I was 3rd degree’d, then harassed for not turning the green card into a blue book as soon as I qualified. Stirred but not shaken, I raised a hand of allegiance in ’84.

Our blue book is not the subject of this reflection. Papers of numerous “immigrants” in Saipan are; I met a few of them in my long sojourn in Micronesia, in Majuro and Guam in the early ’80s, traveling through FSM and Oceania, SEA and South Asia. My first trip to Saipan was in ’89; I returned to the lagoon shortly after Thanksgiving Day of ’98. We broke bread and raised the chalice at Emmanuel UMC, then taught at PSS; we are not novice to the affairs of the CNMI. We intoned the triune name at Chamber affairs, sheltered folks with labor and immigration issues. We exchanged pleasantries

with Sophie and Pete, and nodded to island politicos, less with Juan but more with Diego. We knew real island heartbeat was elsewhere but Capital hill.

The future of the CNMI is not Article XII. It is on what we do with our “immigrants”!

The paramount illusion spinners are foisting over communal consciousness is the alleged contractual nature of the descent of workers from many parts of the world into the CNMI. The numerous labor cases attests to the fact that we exploited the labor of those of made it into Saipan; we also made them pay exorbitant fees at source for the privileged of coming to a U.S. territory, even misleading some into thinking that we were an L.A. suburb! Three-year contracts signed at home were invalid on shore.

The garment industry was profitable at the HR end, more than in the alleged transshipment of boutique clothes! The litany of misfortunes attendant to this sorry state of affairs is familiar; we are also conversant of its soft underbelly exemplified in the islands’ Houses of Horus!

We witnessed last week the ironic consequences of lured asylum seekers for a Java boat ride to Australia’s Christmas Island. Less than a fifth of the passengers survived the tempest. The extent immigrants seek to better their lot away from their land of birth attests to the scandalous maintenance of colonial policies in the people’s access to this planet’s resource.

America’s U.S. immigration agency was launched in fear of the “yellow fever”, and England’s previous penal colony decimated the natives. Oz restricts access to Down Under from the neighborhood;

Former ambassador’s plight reflects decline of US-Pakistan ties

The scary decline of relations between the United States and Pakistan—the world’s most dangerous nuclear-armed country—is illustrated by the perilous plight of one man.

Husain Haqqani was, until recently, the savvy and energetic Pakistani ambassador to Washington, dubbed by Bloomberg “the hardest working man in DC.” His job was thankless: trying to maintain ties between two countries that deeply distrust each other.

Pakistan’s military disliked Haqqani because of his long-standing opposition to its ties with Islamist groups. (He wrote the best book on the subject.) He was also regarded as too “pro-American.” But the generals apparently recognized that only someone like Haqqani could ease tensions with Washington and keep the U.S. aid flowing.

So they let him keep working to prevent U.S.-Pakistani ties from breaking. Until now.

Haqqani has resigned and returned home. He’s accused by the military and the media—no formal charges—of drafting an unsigned memo asking Washington in May to help block a military coup in Pakistan. In return, Pakistan’s civilian government supposedly would have cracked down on its military and ISI intelligence agency.

Haqqani is forbidden to leave the country, and could be charged with treason. But the “Memogate” affair is so bizarre, one has to ask whether it’s merely a pretext for the Pakistani military to unseat the civilian government and rupture ties with the United States.

The more details that emerge about this alleged scandal, the more fishy it looks. A Pakistani American businessman named Mansoor Ijaz passed the memo to President Obama’s former national security adviser, Jim Jones, in May 2011; Jones gave it to Adm. Mike Mullen, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Ijaz ignited the firestorm by writing about the memo in the Financial Times in October. He says he was following Haqqani’s instructions to convey a message from Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari; he claims he has text messages that back up his story. But the tale is full of holes.

Haqqani denies he had anything to do with the memo. Jones denies Ijaz ever mentioned Haqqani. And Mullen says he paid the unsigned document no attention. But even putting all that aside, the story makes no sense.

For one thing, Zardari had tried once before and failed miserably to gain control of the ISI; neither he nor Haqqani would have been likely to court another failure. Moreover, the memo was passed just after the U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden, which left the Pakistani military weakened and unlikely to make a coup.

Most telling, the well-connected Haqqani had no need to use an

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer



unreliable cutout to deliver messages. Which brings us to the central weakness of the story: the credibility of Mansoor Ijaz.

Ijaz, who once managed an investment firm, had cultivated well-placed political friends in both parties. He seems like a clone of Walter Mitty, the Thurber character who had heroic daydreams and tried to convince others they were true.

Ijaz claims that he got Sudan in the mid-1990s to offer the Clinton administration intelligence on al-Qaeda, and that Sudan offered to arrest bin Laden. The 9/11 Commission found no “credible evidence” of any such Sudanese offer.

Peter Bergen, CNN’s national security analyst, has detailed a long list of sensational claims by Ijaz to Fox News, CNN, and British newspapers that were baseless. Example: Ijaz told Fox in 2003 that “unimpeachable eyewitness sources” placed bin Laden in Iran; later he admitted this was in error.

This month Ijaz claimed, in a Newsweek interview, that the United States told Haqqani and Zardari in advance about the raid on bin Laden. Given the intense secrecy in which this raid was held, such a claim is ludicrous. It undercuts everything else Ijaz has said.

Yet Pakistan’s military and intelligence leaders are fanning the Memogate furor, which further inflames anti-Americanism in their country. They seem unaware that their hot pursuit of Haqqani (and Zardari) is likely to boomerang against their own interests, and their country’s interests as well.

Pakistan needs to maintain its ties with the United States, no matter how fragile. If they break, Pakistan’s generals lose military aid that won’t be replaced by China. Without strategic cooperation between the two countries, neighboring Afghanistan will collapse into chaos after U.S. troops leave, a chaos that will blow back into Pakistan.

Husain Haqqani was no traitor; he understood the need to prevent a U.S. rupture with Pakistan. His forced resignation could bring that rupture closer. By blindly pursuing Memogate, Pakistan’s military leaders are boxing themselves into a situation that is as dangerous for their country as it is for America. Is that what the generals really want?

on our course of action.

I firmly believe that the CNMI has more potential to achieve prosperity than many of us believe. We have to wake up and change our attitudes. Create goals and achieve them by our desire, determination and discipline. Let’s get off our butts (excuses) and do it! There are acres of diamonds under our feet!

Have a great week and keep SMILING! Oh, I almost forgot—a belated MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR—2012! May it bring new joy and faith to us!

CHALLENGES

From Page 10

in fee simple. Before we vote to retain Article 12, please study Hawaii and how it handled a similar problem.

Let’s pause and reflect on the above statements. Remember I am not asking any of us to agree with me. We must all arrive at our own conclusions. My goal is to make us think and then act

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



Canada and New Zealand, just a bit less so. Kipling’s white man’s burden was played too well!

There is a great civil war going on over the minds and hearts of folks around the world. Malthus triggered this when he touted that there is not enough food to go around, population growth exceeding food production. The image stuck. The political line to better conserve profligate consumption because the unwashed and ill taught hordes are out to destroy U.S. moves votes. Rhetoric assault on Obama’s White House follows this line. Unadulterated greed, individual or corporate, footnotes the decline of the American Empire.

USCIS officers are conflicted among those who embody the Statue of Liberty’s claim, and those who defend the new Maginot Line that stretches from the Aleutians to Down Under, through Panmunjom, Okinawa, Guam, Cotabato, Darwin, and Diego Garcia. Gualo Rai office is a 50/50 proposition!

That’s what Rabby and Bonnie’s entourage have to work with.

Enshrined in this nation’s psyche is the right of dissent of the governed. If the violent kind is not one’s cup of kava, there are many forms of revolt, including methods of civil disobedience that may be employed if legal recourse proves sorely unyielding, intransigently abetted by threatened anxious hard-hearts in executive positions.

While islanders cower in fear, immigrants-to-be freely demonstrate that if there’s a will, there’s a way. They need not be feared; locals might even join ‘em. We have idle lands that await tilling, fresh and seawater ponds to hold fishies, buildings to be maintained, elders to be cared for, not to mention an extra hand to pour the brew and knead tired muscles. Guy, might we start seeing each other as human beings rather than as mere units of labor?

Judge Ramona Manglona welcomed six hand-raisers not too long ago. I am looking forward to a deluge of hell-raisers! Why not? “Immigrants” are already deemed guilty until proven deportable, so what have we to lose? After all, fighting by all means necessary is very American. Welcome fellow immigrants, local and foreign born!

Letters to the Editor

Bad message

The recent article regarding only six House of Representative members submitting to a drug test sends a very bad image on the lower house of the CNMI Legislature.

If the members of this chamber have nothing to hide then why are they not getting a drug test.

Certainty, the system is not fair because all government employees or prospective employees must go through a drug test, why in the world doesn’t this requirement apply to these elected officials.

If they were really honest and have nothing to hide then they should pass a law requiring all elected officials to pass a drug test before they are sworn into office or receive a penny of their salary.

The CNMI Legislature is a joke and they are sending a bad message to the children of this community. To the children of the CNMI, go ahead and use illegal drugs because as long as you are a senator or congressman/congresswoman you don’t need to take a drug test.

Danny Calvo

Dandan

What are you afraid of?

The refusal of some elected officials from the lower house of the Legislature to take a drug test only confirms the public’s suspicion of them using drugs and hiding behind the cloak of their position.

My challenge to these individuals is this: if you are drug-free then what are you afraid of? Yes, I understand that there is no law requiring you guys to take a drug test which is the problem in the first place because why would you exempted yourselves from this requirement while everyone has to take one.

The only logical reason for this is to leave room for you guys to either smoke marijuana or use ice “recreationally” as Congressman Stanley Torres puts it. The only right thing to do is to TAKE A DRUG TEST ONCE AND FOR ALL, and this goes also to the all the senators. I would really love for you guys to give a speech to PSS students about being drug free because that would be so funny.

Luis Hocog

Sinapalo, Rota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 87° ▾ 76°

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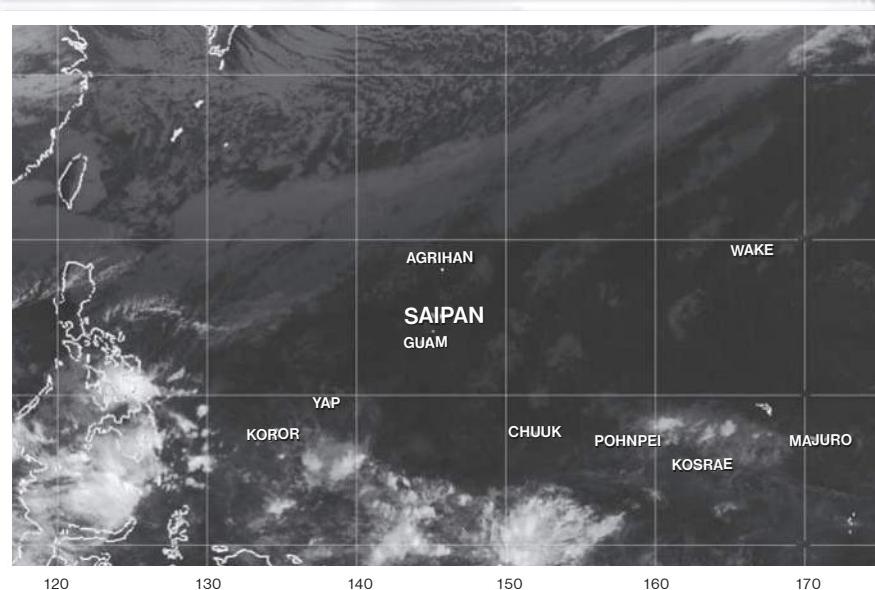
▲ 87° ▾ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▾ 78
Palau Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▾ 78
Yap Showers	▲ 86 ▾ 79
Chuuk Showers	▲ 84 ▾ 80
Pohnpei Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▾ 79
Kosrae Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▾ 79
Majuro Showers	▲ 85 ▾ 80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲ 70 ▾ 63
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 41 ▾ 20
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 70 ▾ 62
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 81 ▾ 71
London	Showers	▲ 52 ▾ 46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 66 ▾ 46
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▾ 75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▾ 55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▾ 65
New York	Showers	▲ 48 ▾ 39
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▾ 37
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 41 ▾ 36
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▾ 32
Rome	Sunny	▲ 57 ▾ 36
Salem	Showers	▲ 45 ▾ 44
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▾ 52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 39 ▾ 25
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▾ 34
Washington, DC	Rain	▲ 47 ▾ 40



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima at 25N160E to 21N150E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 13N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are occurring along and up to 400 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough stretches southeastward from Mindanao through 3N130E to end at EQ135E. Widely scattered to scattered showers are found near the trough over Koror but south of Yap or south of a line from 9N130E to 7N140E. An upper-level trough stretches northeastward from EQ150E to beyond 180 at 10N. Upper-level divergence associated with this feature is coupling with converging trade winds to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest and south of Chuuk or south of a line from 7N140E to 2N159E. Scattered showers are found farther northeast near Pohnpei and Kosrae within 90 miles of a line from 9N159E to 6N169E.

Tides	
Saipan Harbor	
3:18 AM	Today Low Tide: 0.6 Feet
10:21 AM	Today High Tide: 2.0 Feet
3:55 PM	Today Low Tide: 1.1 Feet
8:38 PM	Today High Tide: 1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset	
Today	6:41 AM	5:55 PM	Today
Wednesday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM	Wednesday
Thursday	6:42 AM	5:56 PM	Thursday
Friday	6:42 AM	5:56 PM	Friday
Saturday	6:42 AM	5:57 PM	Saturday

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

■ ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747.

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 6, 2011

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5

SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)

C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

C05070	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

02606	2:10am	6:00am	1
02606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
02604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

02608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/179	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM

NMC spring 2012 registration begins Jan. 10

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's Spring 2012 semester will begin on Jan. 10 and run through Jan. 13, 2012. Students can register on the day designated for their PowerCampus ID number during this week. Late registration is from Jan. 17 to 20, 2012.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

New students are required to take the English and Math placement tests before they register. After taking the placement tests, students can obtain the required slip from the English department and meet with their academic advisors. NMC academic advisors will help new students fill in registration forms and create class schedules. Students can then finish the registration process in NMC's Room D-1.

Fee waivers for Jan. NMC info session participants

Individuals who participate in the Northern Marianas College's free information sessions will qualify to receive fee waivers for the NMC admission application and placement tests for the upcoming Spring 2012 semester—a savings of about \$50.

The first information session, which is open to all prospective students and interested community members, is on Jan. 4, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1 at the college's As Terlaje campus. The next information session, which is for government and private sector employees, is on Jan. 5, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1.

At both sessions, NMC faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representa-

Navy, Marines set training on FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Dec. 26-30, 11pm to 1am.

The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area

SPRING 2012 IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 6: Student Orientation for International Students
9:30am - 4pm at the NMC Student Center (Building J)

Jan. 9: Early Registration for 2012 graduation candidates and School of Education Seniors

Jan. 10: Regular Registration for students with PowerCampus ID #00000100-000010900

Jan. 11: Regular Registration for students with PowerCampus ID #000010901-000014010

Jan. 12: Regular Registration for students with PowerCampus ID #000014011-000015820

Jan. 12: Student Orientation for New and Returning Students

■ Session 1: 9am - 12pm at the NMC Library (Building O)

■ Session 2: 4pm - 7pm at the NMC Library (Building O)

Jan. 13: Regular Registration for Students with PowerCampus ID #000015821 and higher / New students

Jan. 16: Holiday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 17: First Day of Spring Classes

Jan. 17-20: Late Registration Week

ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE

Jan. 3: 9am - 4pm, English Lab (Building M)
Jan. 4: 9am - 6pm, English Lab (Building M)
Jan. 5: 9am - 6pm, English Lab (Building M)
Jan. 6: 9am - 2pm, English Lab (Building M)
Jan. 9: 9am - 4pm, English Lab (Building M)

Jan. 10: 9am - 6pm, English Lab (Building M)
Jan. 11: 9am - 6pm, English Lab (Building M)

Jan. 12: 9am - 4pm, English Lab (Building M)
Jan. 13: 9am - 2pm, English Lab (Building M)

MATH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE

Jan. 3: 10am - 12pm, Room A-9

Jan. 5: 10am - 12pm, Room A-9

5pm - 7pm, Room A-9

Jan. 10: 10am - 12pm, Room A-9

Jan. 12: 10am - 12pm, Room A-9

5pm - 7pm, Room A-9

Application for admissions will still be accepted until the last day of late registration on Friday, Jan. 20, 2012, provided that both placement tests have been taken. Students may register between 9am and 6pm Monday through Friday during registration week, and between 8am and 5pm during the week of late registration.

Ongoing students must clear any outstanding balances at the Finance Office, the NMC Library and/or Office of Admissions and Records in Building N or call 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1537, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

missions and Records before they can register for classes. To find out if any balances exist, students can visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N or call 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1537.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the Spring 2012 semester, visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N or call 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1537, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

At the session for government and private sector employees, other important topics that will be presented include a new spring 2012 semester schedule, which includes more weekend and night classes in order to accommodate working individuals who are not able to attend classes during the work-week. In addition, financial aid options will also be discussed. For instance, the college offers a 50-percent discount on tuition for government employees who are ineligible to receive other scholarships.

Registration for the upcoming spring 2012 semester will begin on Jan. 10, 2012. Class schedules, placement test schedules, important dates, and other information for the spring 2012 semester are now available online at www.nmcnet.edu.

For more information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 ext. 1537, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday greetings to Michelle Rodriguez who celebrated her special day yesterday, Dec. 26.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana

Ofisinan I Gubietno

Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 047 L 02, containing an area of approximately 49,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Naftan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The prospective lessee is Eco Island Development, LLC. The Members of the Limited Liability Company are Mr. Herman P. Sablan and Ms. Shen Yen.
- iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Herman P. Sablan.
- iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and managing a solar photovoltaic power plant.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

- v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Naftan, Saipan.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before January 5, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku guini ha nā'i nutisia ni intension-ña para u mana'ma'atkila pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha gi Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha häyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku heneråt siha ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opifon, pat testamofun kinentra siha gi tinahguin propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi más mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

- i. I maproponi na atkilon tånu' pupbliku ha diskribi kumu Lot No. Lot No. 047 L 02, ni kinonsisti ária käsi guaha 49,000 square meters, más pat menus, ni gaigi gi Naftan, Saipan. I kopian i lugåt gaigi gi pumalu na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimentu.
- ii. I manatkikila i Eco Island Development, LCC. I miembri siha gi Liability Company si Siñot Herman P. Sablan yan si Siñora Shen Yen.
- iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Herman P. Sablan.
- iv. I manatkikila debi na u kuntuinha umusa i lugåt siha uniku para i hinangai adilåntu yan minanehan solar photovoltaic power plant.
- v. I teman i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon sa' 25 åñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 åñus. I maproponi na ápas atkilon gi sakkan gi duråntin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt.
- vi. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråtan atkilon siha machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi sigundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vii. I Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinig'i i imfotmasion, opifon yan testamofun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Ineru (January) 5, 2012 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106(b) mellól Alléghul Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús faluw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókkä remuschál emwal rebwe isisilong yaar mágemáng , data awewe, me anggingi reel pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap. Sengi Alléghul Toulap ye 15-2, ebwal ayoora, lamal awewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkataéeló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 047 L 02 ebwe yoor faaigh me tiwoor saangaras lapal (49,000 square meters) elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Naftan, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schéschélé schóól akkilon nge Eco Islands Development, LLC. Membrol Limited Liability Company yeel nge Mr. Herman P. Sablan me Ms. Shen Yen.
- iii. Schóól aweweey akkilon yel nge Mr. Herman P. Sablan.
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yáyá faluw yeel rel ebwe ayoora me mwóghutagheli solar photovoltaic power plant.
- v. Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráagh (25 years). Emmwel rebwe bwal sóóbwey ngáli seigh me limoow ráagh (15 years).
- vi. Pomwol méel akkilon lól ráagh kka re akkilali nge ebwe mwiril sángi percentage il yaal appraised fair market value il faluw.
- vii. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi merel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwonal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tutaram, Seipél; Songsong village, Luta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúluyóöl.
- viii. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esaál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Naftan, Seipél.
- ix. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughi ischil mágemáng, aingjingil merel amweyút mmwal Eneero (January) 5, 2012 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luta, Tchúluyóöl.

Business

Last-minute buyers cap strong shopping season

By MAE ANDERSON
AP RETAIL WRITER

It's that time for caroling, eggnog, holiday cheer—and for some, a frantic dash to the mall.

Last-minute shoppers hit stores on Christmas Eve in a surge that retailers hope will top off a strong holiday shopping season.

Among them was Len Boswell. He started his shopping at 6 a.m. at Starbucks. Later in the morning he was at a CVS drugstore in Decatur, Ga., picking up candy and a neck pillow for his wife.

"I should have done this a couple of weeks ago," acknowledges Boswell, 68, a director of book publishing at a nonprofit.

Stores are expected to ring up \$469.1 billion during the holiday season, which runs November through December. The final week before Christmas can account for up to 20 percent of those sales. Retailers tempered their expectations heading into the season because they worried that Americans weren't ready to spend in the weak economy.

But sales have been brisk dur-

ing the two-month period, rising 2.5 percent from the start of the season on Nov. 1 through last Saturday, according to research firm ShopperTrak, which did not give a dollar figure. As a result, ShopperTrak upgraded its sales growth forecast to 3.7 percent from its 3 percent estimate heading into the season.

"They're clearly putting their best foot forward on promotions right now," said John Morris, analyst at BMO Capital Markets. Morris estimates that promotional sale activity is up about 7 percent compared with last year, taking into account the level of markdowns and the amount of goods marked down.

Whether it's the sales or just plain-old procrastination, last-minute shoppers were drawn to stores across the country on Christmas Eve.

Taubman Centers, which operates malls across the country including The Mall at Short Hills in New Jersey and Beverly Center in Los Angeles, reported almost-full parking lots at some malls by 10 a.m., earlier than last year. Apparel, electronics, perfume and jewelry were among the biggest sellers.

Toys R Us and some Macy's have been open 24 hours a day in the days leading up to Christmas. At malls, Abercrombie & Fitch has been offering a blanket

'Anonymous' hackers target US security think tank

LONDON (AP)—The loose-knit hacking movement "Anonymous" claimed Sunday to have stolen thousands of credit card numbers and other personal information belonging to clients of U.S.-based security think tank Stratfor. One hacker said the goal was to pilfer funds from individuals' accounts to give away as Christmas donations, and some victims confirmed unauthorized transactions linked to their credit cards.

Anonymous boasted of stealing Stratfor's confidential client list, which includes entities ranging from Apple Inc. to the U.S. Air Force to the Miami Police Department, and mining it for more than 4,000 credit card numbers, passwords and home addresses.

Austin, Texas-based Stratfor provides political, economic and military analysis to help clients

reduce risk, according to a description on its YouTube page. It charges subscribers for its reports and analysis, delivered through the web, emails and videos. The company's main website was down, with a banner saying the "site is currently undergoing maintenance."

Proprietary information about the companies and government agencies that subscribe to Stratfor's newsletters did not appear to be at any significant risk, however, with the main threat posed to individual employees who had subscribed.

"Not so private and secret anymore?" Anonymous taunted in a message on Twitter, promising that the attack on Stratfor was just the beginning of a Christmas-inspired assault on a long list of targets.

Anonymous said the client list

it had already posted was a small slice of the 200 gigabytes worth of plunder it stole from Stratfor and promised more leaks. It said it was able to get the credit card details in part because Stratfor didn't bother encrypting them—an easy-to-avoid blunder which, if true, would be a major embarrassment for any security-related company.

Fred Burton, Stratfor's vice president of intelligence, said the company had reported the intrusion to law enforcement and was working with them on the investigation.

Stratfor has protections in place meant to prevent such attacks, he said.

"But I think the hackers live in this kind of world where once they fixate on you or try to attack you it's extraordinarily difficult to defend against," Burton said.

Anonymous said the client list

shared its test results with investigators.

China, Japan unveil deals to tighten finance ties

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese and Japanese leaders have unveiled initiatives to tighten financial links between East Asia's economic giants and sometime rivals—measures that could expand use of China's tightly controlled currency abroad. During a visit to Beijing by Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, the two governments said in a surprise announcement Sunday they will encourage use of their own currencies in bilateral trade, which now is conducted mostly in U.S. dollars. They also agreed to support the sale of bonds denominated in China's yuan by Japanese companies in Tokyo and foreign markets and by the state-owned Japan Bank of International Cooperation in mainland China's markets, which are closed to most foreign investors.

Nation

Obama spends Christmas with family, military



President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama and their daughters Malia and Sasha arrive for Christmas service at the Kaneohe Bay Chapel on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Sunday, Dec. 25, 2011, in Kaneohe, Hawaii.

HONOLULU (AP)—President Barack Obama blended his roles as a father and commander-in-chief this Christmas, exchanging presents and singing carols with his family, then greeting U.S. service

members stationed at a Marine base in Hawaii.

The president and his family woke up early Sunday to open gifts, the White House said, then had breakfast and sang Christmas carols at the multimillion-

dollar house they rent in Kailua Beach, near Honolulu.

Obama made two trips on Christmas to nearby Marine Corps Base Hawaii, first to attend church services at the base chapel. The president dressed casually in dark khaki pants and a short-sleeve blue shirt, and his wife and daughters donned sundresses for Christmas services on a bright, breezy day on the island of Oahu.

After spending a few hours at their rental home, the president and Michelle Obama returned to the base to visit with several hundred service members and their families, as they have done in past years.

The Obamas posed for photos, signed autographs and stopped to chat with the military families gathered in the dining hall, where roast beef, salad and apple pie were on the Christmas Day menu.

Eight-month-old Cooper Wall Wagner, son of Capt. Greg Wagner, got up close and personal with the president, grabbing his face, then sticking his fingers in Obama's mouth.

An amused Obama said he thought the baby just liked his "big nose"—a comment that drew laughter from several of the Marines.

Fire at ad exec's Conn. home kills 3 kids, parents

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP)—A fire tore through the home of an advertising executive in a tony neighborhood along the Connecticut shoreline Sunday, killing her three children and both of her parents on Christmas morning.

Madonna Badger and a male acquaintance were able to escape from the house as it was engulfed by flames, said Stamford Police Sgt. Paul Guzda. But Badger's three daughters—a 10-year-old and 7-year-old twins—perished in the fire, Guzda said.

He said Badger's parents, who were visiting for the holiday, also died.

Neighbors awoke to the sound of screaming shortly before 5 a.m. and rushed outside to help, but they could

only watch in horror as flames devoured the grand home in the pre-dawn darkness and the shocked, injured survivors were led away from the house.

"It is a terrible, terrible day," Mayor Michael Pavia told reporters at the scene of the fire. "There probably has not been a worse Christmas day in the city of Stamford."

Badger, an ad executive in the fashion industry, is the founder of New York City-based Badger & Winters Group. A supervisor at Stamford Hospital said she was treated and discharged by Sunday evening.

Property records show she bought the five-bedroom, waterfront Victorian home for \$1.7 million last year. The house

is situated in Shippensburg Point, a wealthy neighborhood that juts into Long Island Sound.

The male acquaintance who also escaped the blaze was a contractor who was doing work on the home, Guzda said. He was also hospitalized but his condition was not released.

Police officers drove Badger's husband, Matthew Badger, from New York City to Stamford on Sunday morning. Badger's parents lived in Southbury, Conn., Guzda said.

Firefighters knew there were other people in the home but could not get to them because the flames were too large and the heat too intense, said Acting Fire Chief Antonio Conte, his voice cracking with emotion.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police find 7 dead in Fort Worth-area apartment

GRAPEVINE, Texas (AP)—Seven people believed to be related had opened their Christmas gifts and started cleaning up the wrapping paper when they were shot to death in a suburban Fort Worth apartment, police said Sunday. Authorities said they believe the shooter is among the dead, but got a warrant before doing a full search on the small chance that it was otherwise. Four women and three men, aged 18 to 60, were found in an adjoining kitchen and living room area when police entered the apartment around midday, said Grapevine Police Sgt. Robert Eberling. Two handguns were found near the bodies in the apartment that was decorated for the holiday with a tree, he added.

Soldier paralyzed in shooting at homecoming party

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—A decorated Army soldier recovering from injuries suffered in a suicide bombing in Afghanistan has been shot at his homecoming party, and family members say he's paralyzed and in critical condition. Christopher Sullivan, 22, was shot late Friday while trying to break up a fight between his brother and another man at a San Bernardino, Calif., residence. "My son didn't deserve this. He served his country," his mother, Suzanne Sullivan, told the *San Bernardino Sun*. Suzanne Sullivan said her son suffered two gunshot wounds to his back, which shattered his spine. Family members told the newspaper that the shooting late Friday left Sullivan paralyzed and in critical condition.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Mead Johnson: No bacteria found in infant formula

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP)—Illinois-based Mead Johnson says another batch of tests done on its Enfamil Premium Newborn infant formula found no trace of the bacteria tied to the death of a Missouri baby. Preliminary hospital tests indicated 10-day-old Avery Cornett died Dec. 18 of a rare infection caused by bacteria known as Cronobacter sakazakii. The source of the bacteria hasn't been determined, but it can be found in powdered formula. Avery had consumed Enfamil Newborn formula. National retailers including Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Walgreen Co., Kroger Co. and Safeway have since pulled a batch of the powdered infant formula from their shelves. The Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and the Missouri Department of Health are investigating Avery's death. Mead Johnson said Sunday it

shared its test results with investigators.

China, Japan unveil deals to tighten finance ties

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese and Japanese leaders have unveiled initiatives to tighten financial links between East Asia's economic giants and sometime rivals—measures that could expand use of China's tightly controlled currency abroad. During a visit to Beijing by Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, the two governments said in a surprise announcement Sunday they will encourage use of their own currencies in bilateral trade, which now is conducted mostly in U.S. dollars. They also agreed to support the sale of bonds denominated in China's yuan by Japanese companies in Tokyo and foreign markets and by the state-owned Japan Bank of International Cooperation in mainland China's markets, which are closed to most foreign investors.

World

Christmas attacks in Nigeria by sect kill 39

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Terror attacks across Nigeria by a radical Muslim sect killed at least 39 people, with the majority dying on the steps of a Catholic church after celebrating Christmas Mass as blood pooled in dust from a massive explosion.

Authorities on Sunday acknowledged they could not bring enough emergency medical personnel to care for the wounded outside St. Theresa Catholic Church in Madalla near Nigeria's capital. Elsewhere, a bomb exploded amid gunfire in the central Nigeria city of Jos and a suicide car bomber attacked the military in the nation's northeast as part of an apparently coordinated assault by the sect known as Boko Haram.

The Christmas Day violence, denounced by world leaders and the Vatican, shows the threat of the widening insurrection posed by Boko Haram against Nigeria's weak central government. Despite a recent paramilitary crackdown against the sect in the oil-rich nation, it appears that Africa's most populous nation remains unable to stop the threat.

The White House condemned what it called a "senseless" at-

tack, offered its condolences to the Nigerian people and pledged to assist authorities in bringing those responsible to justice.

In a statement, Britain's Foreign Secretary William Hague said, "These are cowardly attacks on families gathered in peace and prayer to celebrate a day which symbolizes harmony and goodwill towards others."

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon called in a statement for an end to sectarian violence in the country.

The first explosion on Sunday struck St. Theresa Catholic Church just after 8 a.m. The attack killed 35 people and wounded another 52, said Slaku Lugard, a coordinator with Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency.

Though billions of dollars of oil money flow into the nation's budget yearly, Lugard's agency could only send text messages to journalists asking for their help in getting more ambulances.

Those wounded filled the cement floors of a nearby government hospital, with television images showing them crying in pools of their own blood. Corpses lined an open-air morgue.

WORLD BRIEFS

More bodies found far away from PH floods

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Fishermen joined Philippine navy sailors, police and firefighters in an ever wider search for bodies from one of the country's worst flash floods that swept away entire villages. More bodies washed up ashore, pushing the death toll to more than 1,200, an official said Monday. While more than 60,000 homeless from hundreds of flood-ravaged villages spent a miserable Christmas in jam-packed schools and gymnasiums, search teams retrieved an additional 150 bodies from the sea as far as 60 miles (100 kilometers) from worst-hit Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities, said Benito Ramos, head of the Office of Civil Defense.

Syrian opposition calls for UN role to end crisis

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's top opposition leader called on the Arab League Sunday to bring the U.N. into the effort to stop the regime's bloody crackdown on dissent as security forces pressed ahead with raids and arrests and killed at least seven more people. Burhan Ghalioun, the Paris-based leader of the Syrian National Council, made the plea as Arab League officials were setting up teams of foreign monitors as part of their plan aimed at ending nine months of turmoil that the U.N. says has killed more than 5,000 people.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-12-005

PROCUREMENT & INSTALLATION OF LED STREET LIGHTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the procurement and installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA).

The Bid Packet may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 4, 2012 at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-005, Procurement and Installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 19, 2012 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety firm holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety firm must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety firm must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 9, 2012 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Administrative Assistant, Procurement & Supply via mika.muna@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

In Celebration of His New Life

Pastor Dehrry D. Williams

March 23, 1952 – December 22, 2011

of As Lito, Saipan was called home by our heavenly father on Thursday, December 22, 2011 at the age of 59.

In His New Life, He now joins His:

Parents:	Dopel and Yunis Williams
Brothers:	Leo P. Williams; Johna Williams
Father In-Law:	Johna Luda
Brother In-Law:	Luis C. Benavente
Sister In-Law:	Luisa Williams

He Will Be Dearly Missed And Remembered

In The Hearts Of His:

Wife:	Karmy Williams
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Children & Grandchildren:	Keithleen & Robin (Jehu and Bethany); Derwin (Zachary); Caroleen & Antonio (Derick & Ezekiel); Larry & Kanako (Nicole); Florina; Stacey
--------------------------------------	---

Brothers, Sisters, and Spouses:

Katherine/†Luis C. Benavente; †Leo P./ †Luisa Williams; †Johna/Swanita Williams; Gideon/Lolaine Williams; Saimon/Dersita Williams; Asy/Glody Williams; Timothy/Rumi Williams; Morea; Yumiko/Caster Herman

His memories will be also cherished by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews.

On Tuesday December 27, 2011 his remains will be escorted from CHC to the Saipan Gospel Revival Church in As Lito at 3:00PM where a Wake service will be held overnight.

On Wednesday, December 28, 2011 Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. at the Saipan Gospel Revival Church in As Lito followed immediately by Interment Service at the Tanapag Public Cemetery.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

The Family



Northern Marianas Humanities Council Navigating the Human Experience

Vacancy Announcement

Program Officer

Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is soliciting applications for the position of Program Officer. The Program Officer is responsible for developing and implementing a variety of humanities programs and events and coordinating the Council's Community Grants program under the supervision of the Council's executive director and board of directors. A detailed description of the Program Officer's duties may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Applicants for this position must possess: (1). strong analytic, writing and communication skills; (2). knowledge of grants writing and grants administration; (3). the ability to work effectively with people from diverse backgrounds; (4). a working knowledge of NMI history and of current political, social and economic issues confronting the local community; (5). basic computer skills including knowledge of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint; and (6). the ability to articulate the Council's mission to a wide range of audiences.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) in a humanities discipline from an accredited postsecondary institution. The salary range is from \$35,000 to \$40,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the NMICH Personnel Policy Manual.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including: (1). letter of interest; (2). detailed résumé; (3). a writing sample (500-800 words on a humanities topic of your choice); and (4). the names and addresses of three references to Scott Russell, Executive Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Box 506407, Saipan, MP 96950. Complete application packages must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2012. For more information about this employment opportunity please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.

CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Interested applicants can email their resumes at Osidebarngn@yahoo.com.

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Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Saipan Tribune

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Job Vacancy Announcement
Revised 12/23/11

Job Vacancy No. 11-067



Opening Date: 11/28/11
Closing Date: Until Filled

LABORATORY SPECIALIST

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Water Laboratory Manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. Conducts either chemical or microbiological tests on samples to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency. Performs tests on samples submitted by customers. Prepares solutions and standards. Prepares and maintains mandatory records; performs statistical analysis; reviews and enters data; reports test results to Laboratory Manager and local and federal agencies. Responds to customer complaints to include verifying water quality and conducting field tests. Replenishes lab supply. Collects a variety of samples to include composite, wastewater treatment and receiving water samples. Participates in environmental awareness such as participating in conferences and giving presentations at schools. Calibrates laboratory equipment. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: WATER LABORATORY, SAIPAN

POSITIONS: One (1).

SALARY: \$27,826.00 - \$37,944.00 per annum; Unclassified; Ungraded.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry, Microbiology, or related field plus proven experience that could be applied towards laboratory work for a water and wastewater utility. **Knowledge of:** Mathematics; Laboratory procedures; Microbiology and chemistry; CNMI and EPA rules and regulations; Safety procedures. **Skills in:** Collecting samples; Performing routine to complex analysis; Preparing media; Following laboratory procedures; Calibrating equipment; Maintaining required records and reports; Providing customer service; Giving presentations; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. CNMI Driver's License. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Northern Mariana Islands
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"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

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APPROXIMATELY 14,666 SQ.FT. PRIME OFFICE SPACE

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund (NMIRF) is soliciting proposals to lease approximately 14,666 square feet of prime office space on the second and third floors (approximately 7000 sq.ft. per floor) of the Retirement Fund Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. Ideally located across from the Governor's Office and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the building has a backup generator, 24-hour water service, and ample parking space for employees and visitors. Space is available for viewing immediately.

Minimum acceptable terms include the following:

- Per square foot per month, Triple Net (higher for less than full available footage);
- Lessee responsible for own utilities, as well as cost to separately meter;
- 24 months minimum lease term; and
- First month, last month and reasonable security deposit required (amount depends on credit history and financial strength of Lessee).

All proposals are subject to acceptance by the NMIRF Board of Trustees in its sole discretion.

/s/ RICHARD S. VILLAGOMEZ
Administrator, NMI Retirement Fund

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LeBron's 37 points lift Heat past Mavs, 105-94



DALLAS (AP)—LeBron James and the Miami Heat couldn't keep the Dallas Mavericks from winning the most recent NBA championship. They did a nice job, however, of getting the Mavs' title defense off to an ugly start.

James had 37 points, 10 rebounds and six assists as the Heat beat the Mavericks 105-94 Sunday in a game that was hardly ever as close as the final score might suggest.

Maybe the pregame banner-raising ceremony left the Mavs emotionally drained or—more likely—the overhaul of their roster is slow to take hold. The newly minted champs were

down by 15 after one quarter, 21 at halftime, and 35 a few minutes into the second half.

Miami made it look easy, scoring at least 30 points in each of the first three quarters. James had the top highlight, tipping an alley-oop pass to Dwyane Wade so he could have the dunk.

Wade had 26 points, eight rebounds and six assists as the Heat cemented their status as the preseason favorite to win it all. Udonis Haslem added nine points and 14 rebounds.

Dallas hardly showed any life until newcomer Lamar Odom was ejected for something he said while arguing a charging call late in the third quarter.

Bulls 88, Lakers 87

In Los Angeles, Derrick Rose scored 22 points and hit the go-ahead jump shot with 4.8 seconds to play as the Bulls rallied from an 11-point deficit in the final four minutes to edge Los Angeles.

Luol Deng scored 21 points and blocked Kobe Bryant's short shot right before the buzzer as the Bulls hung on for a thrilling finish to both clubs' first-ever Christmas meeting.

Knicks 106, Celtics 104

In New York, Carmelo Anthony scored 37 points, including a pair of free throws with the game tied and 16 seconds left, to lift New York to a seesawing victory over Boston.

Sablan, and Chariton on the champion team are Mike Babauta, Quincy Johnson, Gino Libuw, Peter Mendiola, Kovin Ogunmoro, Marvin Rabauliman, Joe Villacrusis, and Jesus Valdez. Rufino Aguon and Ed Manalili are the head and assistant coaches, respectively.

Lizama was later named the Finals MVP after leading Proa's sweep.

"Jack really stepped up and hustled for all four quarters of Game 2. In addition to his hot shooting, he also played great defense and wrestled out I don't know how many rebounds all night long," Aguon said.

Aguon also hailed the rest of the team for wrapping up the series.

"I am really proud of the way our guys played tonight. They looked well rested and came ready for the sweep. We learned from the first game that stopping Bernardo and Pagarrao was the key to dismantling their team and

Then in the fourth quarter, Mina picked up where Pantaleon left off, as the former drained 12 big markers, while Tobias scored SCS' last four points to complete the come-from-behind win.

Mina led all scorers with his 25 markers and all five SCS starters finished in double figures with Echavez nailing 20 and Manalo and Tobias tallying 17 and 10, respectively.

With the regular season in the books now, DLX will resume action next year with the first round of the single-elimination playoffs.

The first pairing in the playoffs will have the top-ranked MDX battling the winless Pacific Postal (0-8) at 6pm on Jan. 4. In the second game at 8pm, Blue Haus will take on FGC (1-6). Then in the second day of the playoffs on Jan. 6, SCS will meet 8th Division (3-5) at 6pm, while Wushin Express (5-3) and

Amare Stoudemire added 21 points for the Knicks, who led by 17 in the first half, trailed by 10 in the fourth quarter, then pulled out a thrilling Christmas victory.

Thunder 97, Magic 89

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 30 points to help Oklahoma City win its season opener with a victory over Orlando.

Durant led the league in scoring the past two seasons, including averaging 27.7 last season. On Sunday, he was 11-of-19 from the field and added five rebounds and six assists.

Clippers 105, Warriors 86

In Oakland, new prize acquisition

the chemistry our guys showed on the court together made the victory much sweeter," the Proa coach said.

Pagarrao was limited to 12 markers, while Bernardo still top-scored for Proa with 25, but they were hard-earned points.

"We did not want to take anything for granted so I went ahead and called a timeout when we got a little sloppy in the third quarter. The decision also happened to play into our strategy of saving fuel in the tank for the pivotal fourth quarter," Aguon added.

Proa 104 — Lizama 31, Iguel 28, Barcenas 16, Sablan 10, Rabauliman 6, Ogunmoro 5, Chariton 4, Libuw 2, Mendiola 2.

FGC 76 — Bernardo 25, Yabut 16, Basila 14, Pagarrao 12, Babauta 3, Morales 3, Ritual 3.

Scoring by quarters: 24-20, 46-37, 73-57, 104-76.

Chris Paul had 20 points and nine assists in his much-anticipated debut, helping Los Angeles comfortably beat Golden State.

Blake Griffin added 22 points and seven rebounds as the Clippers spoiled Mark Jackson's debut as Warriors coach.

Packers beat Bears, clinch No. 1 seed



GREEN BAY, Wis.

(AP)—With the first five-touchdown game of his NFL career, Aaron Rodgers ensured that the Green Bay Packers' playoff road will go through Lambeau Field.

He also made sure the rival Chicago Bears will be spending the playoffs at home.

Rodgers broke a close game wide open by leading three quick scoring drives in the second half, and the Packers beat the Bears 35-21 on Sunday night.

Rodgers noted that he once threw six touchdowns in junior college—also in a rivalry game—but acknowledged this one was a little bit bigger.

"Yeah, this one's pretty special," Rodgers said.

With the win, the Packers (14-1) nailed down the No. 1 seed in the NFC and claimed another round of bragging rights in the NFL's most storied rivalry by knocking the Bears out of the playoff chase.

"We wanted the path to go through Lambeau," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said.

Rodgers threw a pair of touchdown passes to Jordy Nelson, another two to James Jones, and found tight end Jermichael Finley for a score. Rodgers was 21 of 29 for 283 yards and five touchdowns with no interceptions when backup Matt Flynn took over for Rodgers with 7:54 left in the game.

Rodgers surpassed Lynn Dickey's single-season franchise record of 4,458 yards passing with one game left, although it's unclear how much Rodgers will play in the Packers' finale against Detroit.

The loss eliminated the Bears (7-8) from playoff contention and put the Atlanta Falcons in the playoffs.

Third-string running back Kahlil Bell rushed for 121 yards for the Bears, who trailed by only four early in the third quarter. But Rodgers drove the Packers for touchdowns on their next three possessions to put the game out of reach.

"When you play the Super Bowl champions, you have to be on top of your game," Bears coach Lovie Smith said. "Offensively, we did enough things to keep us in the game and have a chance to win the game at the end. But defensively we just didn't have it."

McCarthy said the team's run defense will be examined after the big performance by Bell, but added that the final score told the story.

"We won big," McCarthy said. "That's the bottom line."

PROA

From Page 20

void and the burly forward scrambled for a dozen in the opening half.

After the break, Proa jumped out to a daunting 73-57 lead, as Lizama and company continued to make life difficult for FGC defenders. Proa fired four three-pointers in the third quarter to start the breakaway. Lizama and Barcenas drained one shot each from downtown and delivered seven points apiece in the push, while Josh Sablan came off the bench and connected a pair of three balls to close the period.

Bernardo found a small spark in the form of 10 points in the third canto, but Proa virtually shut down the rest of his teammates to nullify his effort.

Notably, Pagarrao picked a bad time for an off day as time after time Proa

prevented the speedster from streaking through the lane. He managed a whistle for a trip to the line every now and then, but struggled converting his free throws as well in Game 2. Yabut and Banjo Basila were unable to fill the big void and Rocyl Ritual, who was absent in Game 1, was a non-factor in Game 2, making only three points.

Proa went on to protect the over 20-point lead throughout the fourth quarter en route to an easy cruise to the championship. Proa even dropped three more bombs from behind the arch at crunch time to seal the deal, while FGC's miseries continued, as it had trouble even on getting good looks at the basket for the majority of the game. FGC's ball handlers struggled against Proa's feisty defense and the latter also ruled the rebound contest for the one-sided victory at the final buzzer.

Joining Lizama, Barcenas, Iguel,

for SCS, which missed big man Glenn Aquino, burly forward Jessie Mina, shooter Gilbert Miranda, and point guard Jun Pantaleon in the resumption of the game.

After bowing to Blue Haus, SCS recovered and closed out the regular season with a 92-90 triumph over Sherwin Williams last Friday.

SCS wrapped up the elimination round at third place with its 6-2 card, while Sherwin Williams had a 3-5 card for fifth place.

SCS fell behind by as much as 11 points in the first half, but managed to overhaul Sherwin William's lead at the start of the second half after a 29-12 scoring in the third period.

Pantaleon led the third-quarter surge, drilling 11 of his 20 points to turn a 39-50 deficit to a 68-62 advantage, entering the fourth quarter.

varsity game between Southern and Mt. Carmel.

The regular season of both divisions will have a double-round robin format.

All games will be held at the MHS gym with junior varsity matches tipping off, for the most part, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 4pm and the varsity games starting 10 min-

utes after the first tiffs.

Then the league's double-elimination post-season tournament is scheduled on March 9 and 10 with Tinian High School getting an automatic fourth-seed in the bracket if the visiting team makes it over to Saipan.

Last season, Kagman defeated Southern in the finals, 82-67, to go un-

utes after the first tiffs.

Meanwhile, seven barged it to the "elite list" of players who made at least one of the seven different scoring skills in roccball (volley point, rally, ace, xunk, jam, kee, and goal). The roster includes Aim Low's A.J. Aguilar, Alpha Q's Larry Singa, the Geeks' Jonathan Inacio, Give-a-Hoot's Damart Teregoyo and Poland Masaharu, Lay Low's Icemwar Somorang, and Roc It's Ben Olopai.

series will then march into the finals, which will be a best-of-five affair.

Meanwhile, seven barged it to the "elite list" of players who made at least one of the seven different scoring skills in roccball (volley point, rally, ace, xunk, jam, kee, and goal). The roster includes Aim Low's A.J. Aguilar, Alpha Q's Larry Singa, the Geeks' Jonathan Inacio, Give-a-Hoot's Damart Teregoyo and Poland Masaharu, Lay Low's Icemwar Somorang, and Roc It's Ben Olopai.

Sherwin Williams (3-5) will collide at 8pm.

THURSDAY'S GAME

Blue Haus/QQ Car Rental 91 —

Itaas 22, B. Camacho 18, Talania 14, Abedes 8, Sison 7, Fernandez 6, Cruz 5, Olivos 2, E. Camacho 1.

SCS 85 — Guiang 20, Ritual 17, Echavez 10, Manalo 10, Pantaleon 7, Mina 6, Miranda 5, Tobias 4, Aquino 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-9, 41-31, 65-55, 91-85.

FRIDAY'S GAME

SCS 92 — Mina 25, Pantaleon 20,

Echavez 20, Manalo 17, Tobias 10.

Sherwin Williams 92 — Reyes 23, Mallari 20, Galzote 12, Dayrit 12, Navarro 10, Morales 6.

Scoring by quarters: 23-19, 39-50, 68-62, 92-90.

beaten in the high school division and notch back-to-back championships. The Ayuyus and Rays also dueled in the 2009-2010 finale with Kagman winning, 48-41.

The junior varsity division only had three teams (MHS, Kagman, and Southern) last season and no playoff games were played.

A jam is a direct spike down off a serve; an ace is a served ball hit by one defensive player and either lands on the offensive team's court or is hit out of bounds before a second defensive player is able to touch it; a xunk is a served ball that lands on the defensive court undeflected by any of the defensive team's players; a kee is a hit made from the backline; and a goal is scored when the ball rolled into a soccer goal located past the backline.

6 TEAMS

From Page 20

The junior varsity teams include MHS, GCA, Southern, Kagman, and the Saipan International School Geckos.

Opening day starts with MHS and GCA squaring off in the junior varsity division at 4pm, followed by the

RAYS

From Page 20

Making the first cut are top finisher Aim Low (11-1), Roc It and the Teachers, which are locked for a tie for second place with similar 9-1 cards, and Alpha Q, Give-A-Hoot, and Just-do-It, which are also in a deadlock for fourth to sixth place with identical 7-4 cards. Missing the second round are Balls of Fury, Dream Team, G-Sparks, Geeks,



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Saipan Tribune Sports

Packers beat Bears, clinch No. 1 seed

PAGE 19



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

20 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2011

Proa sweeps FGC to clinch title

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jack Lizama came up big in Game 2 of the GBL IT&E Cup title series to lift Proa to a 104-76 victory and a sweep against FGC last Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The lanky forward sizzled for 31 points, including a 12-point explosion in the first quarter that gave Proa the needed push early on. Pete Iguel and Dan Barcina added more problems

on FGC's defense as the two guards complemented Lizama's impressive game, chipping in 28 and 16 markers in the lopsided Game 2 win. Proa won Game 1 via overtime, 106-90.

With Lizama on fire early in Game 2 and Iguel adding 10 points, Proa took the driver's seat at the end of the opening canto, 24-20.

In the second quarter, it was Barcina's turn to shine, as he nailed a couple of treys to go with the eight points of Iguel. Then a late four-point string by Keoni Chariton in the second canto stretched Proa's advantage to nine, 46-37.

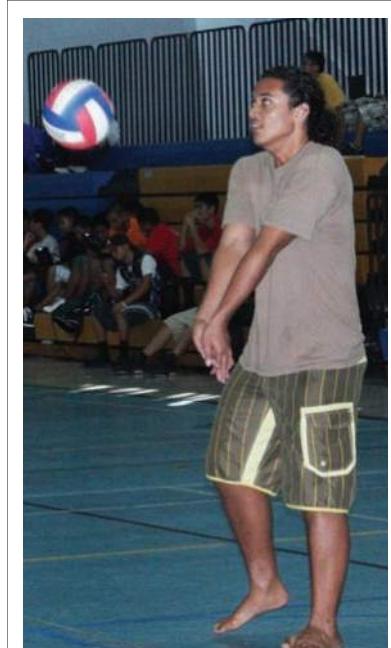
FGC's Kae Bernardo and Lorio Pagara were kept in check in the first half as they only combined for 11 points. FGC leaned on Rex Yabut to fill the

See PROA on Page 19



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Proa's Jack Lizama pulls up for a jumper against two FGC defenders during Game 2 of their best-of-three title series in the GBL IT&E Cup last Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Damart Teregeyo, seen here in a file photo, plays for Give-a-Hoot, which is among the six teams that made the first cut in the 2011 Rockball Fall League.

6 teams make first cut in Rockball league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2011 Rockball Fall League is now down to six teams after the completion of elimination round games last week games at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

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Blue Haus, season with wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

DLX BASKETBALL Blue Haus/QQ Car Rental and SCS Heavy Equipment wrapped up the regular season of the 2011 DLX Basketball Invitational Friendship League on a positive note.

Blue Haus had its last game of the season last Thursday at the Gualo Rai Court and defeated SCS, 91-85. The match was a make-up one and was played first on Nov. 25 with Blue Haus on top at halftime, 41-31, before rain halted the game.

At the resumption of the action, Blue Haus protected the double-figure lead against the depleted SCS crew before

See BLUE on Page 19



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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Rays vs Knights in MISO opener

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

MISO The 2011-2012 season of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League will kick off on Jan. 9 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Five teams are entered both in the junior varsity and varsity divisions. The varsity division is made up of the MHS Dolphins, the Grace Christian Academy Eagles, the Mount Carmel School Knights, Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays and the defending champion Kagman High School Ayuyus.

See RAYS on Page 19

Saipan Southern High School's Adrian Palacios goes for a layup against Kagman High School's Savali Talalemoto during their championship game in the MISO varsity caging last season at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

